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## Netanyahu: Gov't will discuss Hebron with PA soon

SARAH HONIG

PRIME Minister Benjamin Netanyahu yesterday told members of the Likud's political bureau that official talks with the Palestinian Authority will resume soon and will cover a variety of issues, including Hebron.

Netanyahu vehemently denied that he had promised the US to cease the construction of bypass roads for Israeli settlements in the territories. The bureau was called into session to discuss the issue of IDF redeployment in Hebron. However, Netanyahu put off the deliberation, but not before a tiff with bureau chairman MK Uzi Landau, who also heads the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee.

Netanyahu alluded to the renewed attacks on his government by a host of Arab leaders by mentioning the "attempt to impose a political siege" on the new government when it first took office in June.

Netanyahu recalled that "when we took office we were faced with a concerted attempt by some circles in the Arab world to impose a diplomatic siege upon the new government and upon the State of Israel. This went so far that the first action we had to take was to break through this siege and to do it as quickly as possible.

"In fact, the aim was to expand this siege in the direction of Europe and the US. There was an urgent need to approach the governments in question, as well as Arab leaders, to put an end to this."

Netanyahu told the bureau that international agreements have to be adhered to, he called on the Syrians to continue the talks with Israel, and he belittled Labor leader Shimon Peres for "finding so much time to playact as prime minister."

On Hebron itself, Netanyahu had nothing new to say. He said he cannot as yet bring any plan before the

## Peres, Arafat meet at Erez

JON IMMANUEL

LABOR Party leader Shimon Peres met with Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat yesterday for the first time since losing the premiership.

In a press conference after the one-hour meeting on the Palestinian side of Gaza's Erez checkpoint, Peres said, "I am no longer in the government. Neither did I come here to attack the government. But I have two great obligations. We made an agreement with the Palestinian Authority and the Palestinian rais (chairman), and I feel deeply obliged to every promise we made on behalf of the government and on behalf of the Israeli people."

Arafat greeted Peres "not just as partner but as a friend." Palestinian sources at the meeting said that Peres listened and asked questions about the situation in the West Bank and Gaza. He said he would do what he could to influence the government, but politics was kept on a low flame.

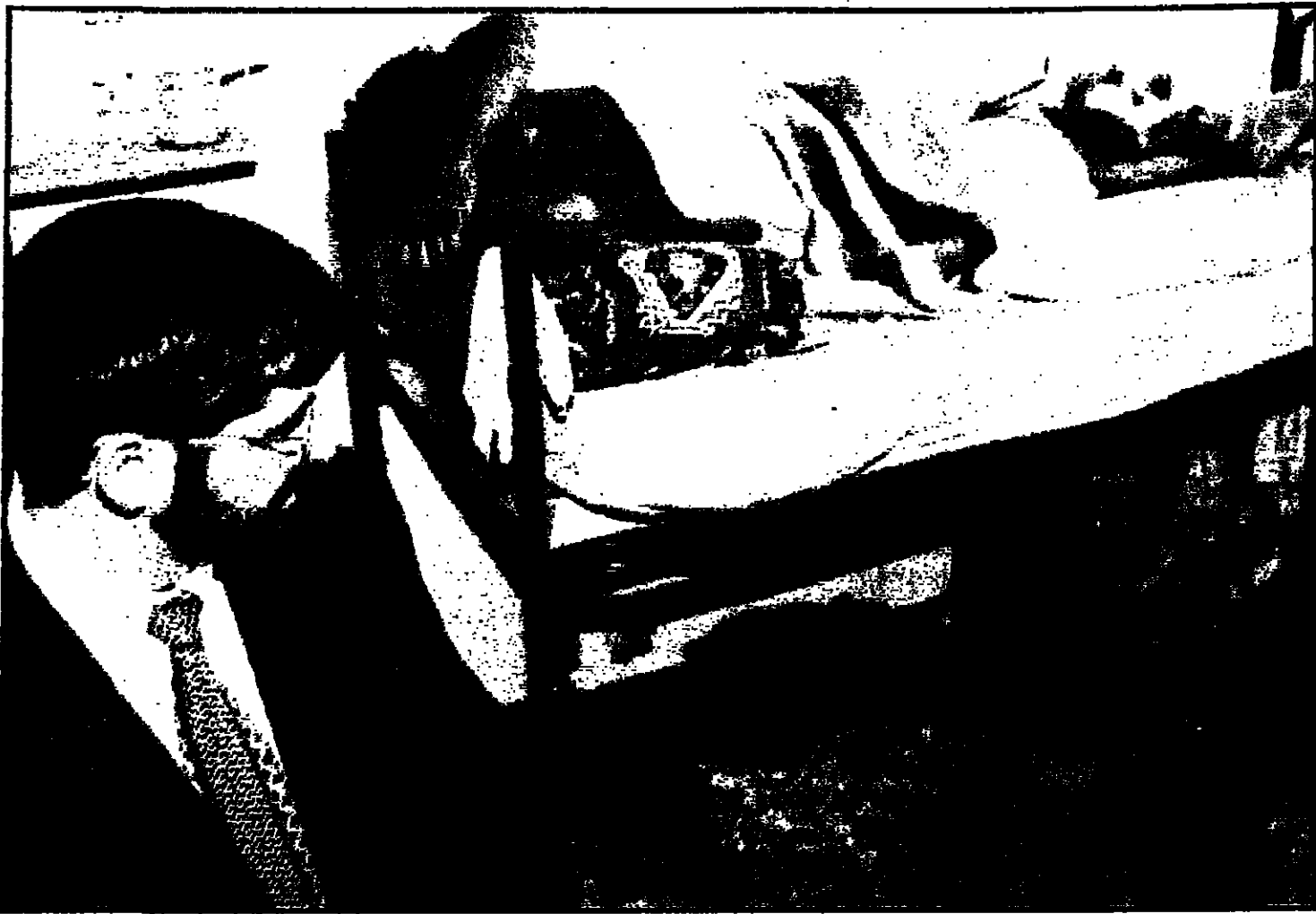
The most controversial thing about the meeting was its location. It was held at Erez after an initial ban by the government on a helicopter flight by Arafat from Gaza to Ramallah, where the two men were originally scheduled to meet.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu held up the authorization of the flight plan for a couple of hours before giving his okay.

According to an official in the Prime Minister's Office, Netanyahu complained that the

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SHABBAT	BEGINS	ENDS
Jerusalem	6:38	7:52
Tel Aviv	6:56	7:54
Haifa	6:59	7:54
Beersheba	6:53	7:50
Eilat	6:51	7:51



Labor and Social Affairs Minister Eli Yishai visits a Tel Aviv apartment housing foreign workers yesterday.

(Doron Steinhilber/Israel Sun)

## Cabinet to examine plan to deport up to 100,000 foreign workers

DAVID HARRIS

A PLAN to expel 1,000 illegal foreign workers a month and to eventually send up to 100,000 back to their home countries, is scheduled to be discussed at today's cabinet meeting.

The proposal, by Labor and Social Affairs Minister Eli Yishai, calls for the establishment of an authority and the allocation of several million shekels to deal with the issue. It was reported yesterday that he will suggest establishing transit camps to house those awaiting deportation.

It is estimated at least half of the more than 200,000 foreign workers here are employed illegally, and Yishai intends to target them first.

"No one is defining [all] for-

foreign workers as criminals," said Yishai, who called for the declaration of a national state of emergency. "But every worker whose work permit has expired is an illegal worker... and should be removed from the country."

Yishai indicated that a reduction in the number of foreign workers would lead to a further easing of the six-month-long closure.

During a visit to areas of south Tel Aviv populated by foreign workers, Yishai was told that many of the workers had entered the country on tourist visas, and are now requesting their families be allowed to join them.

Yishai saw apartments housing

up to 18 people per room, and expressed concern at the abysmal standard of living. Senior police officers who accompanied him, updated him on the increasing crime rate among the workers, including drunk and disorderly and violent behavior. The proposal to set up transit camps has been welcomed by the police.

Following his tour, which

included a visit to a kindergarten for children of foreign workers, Yishai wrote to Health Minister Tzahi Hanegbi, warning him of the possible spread of disease because of the squalid living conditions.

"There is no doubt, this requires urgent attention," wrote Yishai. "Every resident of Tel Aviv who comes into contact with foreign workers is likely to face health risks."

(Continued on Page 2)

## Mubarak threatens cancellation of summit

PM sending Levy to Cairo

DAVID MAKOVSKY and news agencies

THE regional economic summit planned for Cairo in November may not take place unless Israel upholds its commitments to the Palestinians, Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak told a gathering of academics in Alexandria yesterday.

"I've told the Israelis that no progress in the peace process will hit the Middle East economic summit, because not many countries will attend," Mubarak said. He fell short, however, of saying that Egypt would cancel the event.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu phoned Mubarak last night and pledged that there would be progress on the Palestinian track. Netanyahu's foreign policy adviser Dore Gold met yesterday with PA President Yasser Arafat's deputy, Mahmoud Abbas, in an attempt to make some progress on the outstanding issues.

Netanyahu's office issued a statement after the phone call, insisting that Netanyahu understood from Mubarak that the economic conference would take place.

Netanyahu also announced that he would soon dispatch Foreign Minister David Levy to Egypt in an attempt to smooth over relations.

Mubarak told the academics that Israel needed to move fast. "We are worried that the length of time could affect the peace process. If there's no clear progress in the peace process and in implementing

the agreements and entering negotiations, I believe that many countries will not come.

Though more than two months remain until the party is scheduled to convene, Mubarak's comments—which echoed earlier remarks made by Egyptian Ambassador Mohammed Bassiouny—could affect decisions by companies on whether to attend.

But officials in Jerusalem said that Cairo will be forced to back down from these threats under pressure from Washington. The officials noted that President Bill Clinton, who is facing an election campaign, will want to point to the planned summit as one of his administration's accomplishments.

They also pointed out that Washington had pressed both Israel and Jordan to agree during last year's summit in Amman that this year's summit would be held in Cairo. Both Israel and Jordan had wanted the summit to be held in Doha, the capital of Qatar.

The officials added that Mubarak knew that a pullback from Hebron is likely to take place before November, but by making a threat now, the pullback could be described as an Israeli response to Cairo's hard line.

Meanwhile, Western diplomats are urging the government to reach an agreement with the Palestinians on a pullback from Hebron by September 5, the date scheduled for a donors' meeting in Washington to discuss (Continued on Page 2)

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# Meridor to meet with PA economy minister

FINANCE Minister Dan Meridor will host a meeting with Palestinian Authority Economy, Trade and Industry Minister Maher Masri next Tuesday, the Treasury announced yesterday.

The meeting has been arranged under the auspices of the Joint Economic Committee. The purpose of the session will be to formulate an outline for future cooperation and to set a framework for further talks.

The ministers will be accompanied by Undersecretary for the Ministry of Trade Samir Hulleileh and Treasury Director-General David Brodet.

DAVID HARRIS

Masri recently replaced Ahmed Oreia as head of the economic talks with Israel.

Meridor has so far not made any public statements regarding relations with the Palestinians, and has denied reports that he is to meet with PA Chairman Yasser Arafat.

He has, however, made it clear he wants to see a normalization of relations with the PA as soon as security demands allow.

It is clear one of the main themes of the talks will be the ongoing closure. Sunday will

mark six months since the closure was imposed following the suicide bombings in Jerusalem and Ashkelon.

Since that time, Palestinian officials say, the living standard of people in the territories has deteriorated rapidly.

"Aside from the hardships faced by the people, the effect of the closure has been a real halt on investment potential," said Palestinian Economic Council for Development and Reconstruction administration director Mohammed Ishtayeh. "The closure has eroded our efforts. Capital needs a healthy environment."

# PA officials confiscate book critical of Arafat's policies

OFFICIALS of the Palestinian Authority Ministry of Culture have apparently begun confiscating a book by Edward Said, the well-known Palestinian intellectual, because of his intense opposition to the peace policies of PA Chairman Yasser Arafat.

The ban affects a book published in Arabic, English-language books by the professor of English at New York's Columbia University, have not been touched.

Ministry clerks went into at least one Ramallah bookshop last week and removed all the copies of *Oslo*

JON IMMANUEL

2 - *Peace without Land*. According to the bookshop owner, it had been selling faster than any Arabic publication in recent years, except *The Road to Oslo*, the memoirs of Mahmoud Abbas, Arafat's deputy.

The bookshop owner said he had sold 73 copies in five days, before his remaining 27 copies were confiscated.

The book mainly consists of articles already published in Arabic-language newspapers. Some of them were published in English last year, as a book entitled *Peace and Its Discontents*.

All booksellers in the West Bank require a permit from the Ramallah-based Culture Ministry, which gives the ministry the right

to remove any books it considers seditious.

Since the confiscations began, booksellers report that demand for the book has sharply increased in Jerusalem.

Since PA ministries have no authority in Jerusalem, copies can be purchased there and "smuggled" back to PA-controlled areas. The book is published in Cairo and passes only through Israeli customs, so the PA, which Said complains has no control over its own borders, cannot stop it from reaching Jerusalem bookstores.

PA Higher Education Minister Hanan Ashrawi, who once was Said's student, said she had been told there was "no official decision to ban any books. This would be very dangerous. I checked and neither the minister nor his deputy took such a decision. If they did it would be the ministry of anti-culture."

She said that if books were confiscated, it was by "over-zealous clerks or police," but it is a very serious violation.



Labor Party leader Shimon Peres meets with Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat at the Erez crossing yesterday.

## DEPORT

(Continued from Page 1)

MK Amnon Rubinstein (Meretz) vehemently objected to Yishai's expulsion proposals, saying the deportation of tens of thousands of people would seriously damage the country's image abroad. Instead, he said, the government should grant all the workers the right to stay legally for a specific period, on condition that they then leave.

Meanwhile, in Hadera, police secured the release of six foreign workers who had been locked in a shack on Moshav Sde Yitzhak by their employer, with whom they were having a financial dispute.

Simha Yishai, of the Workers Lifetime Association, which deals with the rights of foreign workers, said that foreign workers were often locked up, beaten, not fed properly, and deprived of money due to them.

## PERES

(Continued from Page 1)

IDF approved the trip automatically without consulting. However, the official said that Netanyahu would not hold up the approval just because he did not like the idea of Arafat and Peres holding talks on the peace process.

The official said there was "only a two-hour delay," but by that point, Arafat and Peres had already made alternate arrangements to meet at Erez.

In Ramallah, the PA Legislative Council debated the ban in the morning, and members called it an insult to the Palestinians.

## HEBRON

(Continued from Page 1)

bureau, as "it is too early for this and an unwise thing to do just now." But a hint of the sort of opposition any plan to redeploy the IDF in Hebron could cause inside the Likud was seen when Landau proposed a resolution hinging any moves on the Palestinians fully living up to their undertakings and on full reciprocity between the sides.

Landau said that he "understands the pressures under which the government is laboring, but the Palestinian violations of their end of the bargain are so deep that they go all the way to the heart of the matter."

When Netanyahu heard of the draft resolution, he reportedly threatened not to attend the bureau session, considering the resolution to be tantamount to placing constraints on the government's freedom to act.

Cabinet Secretary Danny Naveh resolved the matter by convincing Landau to insert a clause stating that the bureau supports the government and its policy on Hebron, so long as the principle of reciprocity is respected.

## MUBARAK

(Continued from Page 1)

providing extra funding for the Palestinian Authority.

The PA has a budget deficit of \$127 million, which it blames in large measure on the limits set on the number of Palestinians permitted to work inside Israel.

Currently 40,000 Palestinian laborers are allowed to work inside Israel, but the PA and many of the donors want the government to increase the figure substantially. Each additional 10,000 workers adds another \$20 million in annual income to the PA.

# Abbas: Iran plotting overthrow of PA

CAIRO (AP) - Iran is plotting with militant Palestinian groups to overthrow the Palestinian Authority, Mahmoud Abbas, a member of the PLO's Executive Committee, has suggested in an interview with the Arabic daily *Asharq al-Awsat*.

He said that the plotters plan to assassinate PA Chairman Yasser Arafat, saying they intend to kill "symbols" of the Palestinian Authority.

The PA has information that Iran and radical groups are planning "military operations and assassinations aimed at the Palestinian Authority and its symbols with the aim of overthrowing it," he told the London-based newspaper.

Abbas, an architect of the Oslo Accords, declined to specify the source of the information or the groups involved.

But he said meetings were recently held in Iran between Iranian officials, Palestinians, and militant Islamic groups to prepare the plot.

# Israeli drowns off British coast

AN Israeli yachtman died in a London hospital yesterday after being plucked from stormy seas by a rescue helicopter alerted by his distraught teenage son. British coast guards said.

The 13-year-old boy, who was not named, had been sleeping and woke to find his father had disappeared overboard 10 kilometers off the Cornish coast of southwestern England.

They were believed to have a distant relative in the county of Cornwall.

Coast guards said an hour elapsed before the boy sent an SOS and it took navy rescue helicopters another two hours to locate the man.

Efforts to revive him on the way to hospital failed.

## Winning numbers and cards

IN last night's Paysis Hazak drawing, the holder of ticket number 750265 won NIS 1,000,000.

The holder of ticket number 25919 won a car.

Tickets numbered 383930, 130200, 773946, 798859, 361187, 517066, 862145, and 340580 won NIS 5,000.

Those tickets ending in 31427, 97627, 28514, 72166, 91915, 23134, 51870, 56192, 61299, 32648, 84975, 57079, 44929, 45586, 89799, 01351, 01990, 16281, and 62401 won NIS 1,000.

Tickets ending in 400, 123, 973, and 704 won NIS 100. Tickets ending in 97, 89, 78, and 25 won NIS 30.

Tickets ending in 88 and 49 won NIS 20. Tickets ending in 6 and 2 won NIS 10.

In yesterday's Mifal Hapayis daily Chance card draw, the lucky cards were the seven of spades, the king of hearts, the 10 of diamonds, and the 10 of clubs.

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The Jerusalem Post

# Abbas: Iran plotting overthrow of PA

JERO (AP) - Iran is plotting to overthrow the Palestinian Authority, Mahmoud Abbas, member of the PLO's Executive Committee, has suggested in an interview with the Arabic daily *al-Awsat*. He said that the plotters plan to assassinate PA Chairman Yasser Arafat, saying they intend to use symbols of the Palestinian Authority. The PA has information that radical groups are planning military operations and assassinations aimed at the Palestinian Authority and its symbols with a view to overthrowing it, he said. Abbas, an architect of the 1993 Oslo Accords, declined to specify the source of the information or the groups involved. But he said meetings recently held in Iran between Iranian officials, Palestinian militant Islamic groups to plot the overthrow of the PA.

# Israeli drowns off British coast

AN Israeli yachtsman died in a London hospital yesterday after being plucked from the sea by a rescue helicopter. The 37-year-old yachtsman was believed to be the son of a prominent relative in the community. The yachtsman was found by a British coastguard vessel off the coast of England. The yachtsman was believed to be the son of a prominent relative in the community. The yachtsman was found by a British coastguard vessel off the coast of England. The yachtsman was believed to be the son of a prominent relative in the community.

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The driver of the car was lightly injured, as were her two passengers.

The driver told police that another car, which was passing her, forced her to swerve to the right to avoid an accident, and she then hit Raneim.

The Central Bureau for Statistics, meanwhile, reported yesterday that police recorded 1,930 traffic accidents involving injuries last month. There were 31 fatal accidents, in which 37 people were killed, and 206 involving serious injuries. Altogether, 3,293 people were injured, 279 of them seriously.

The bureau said this represented an 11 percent decrease in the number of accidents compared to June, and a 16 percent drop in the number of injured.

In the first seven months of the year, there have been 14,761 accidents, in which 281 people have been killed and 26,792 injured.

ways be filled with violence. Whoever thinks he can halt the negotiations and the situation will remain the same, must understand the darkest days. How can anyone even think of preventing the leader of the opposition from meeting Arafat? After all, we have Orwell's voice. You can be cynical than that. We have our own policy and we'll strive to apply it by every acceptable norm," he said.

# Bligh likely to be next ambassador to Egypt

DAVID MAKOVSKY

DR. Alexander Bligh, a former aide to former premier Yitzhak Shamir, is likely to be named the next ambassador to Egypt.

Bligh, who has a doctorate in Middle East studies and formerly served in military intelligence, has already held discussions about the post with Acting Foreign Ministry Director-General Eitan Bentsur.

A decision on the new envoy must be made quickly since Ambassador David Sultan is expected to be named ambassador to Canada in the next few weeks. Sultan has been eager to leave Cairo ever since there was a false story in the Egyptian opposition press charging he was tied to the killing of Egyptians in 1956.

Several diplomatic posts remain vacant, especially since the new government recalled political appointees from several top posts. Among the positions left open are ambassadors to the UN, Russia, Turkey, and South Africa.

Two leading candidates for the UN post are Oded Eiran, a professional diplomat who has held a wide array of senior posts, and Dr. Yossi Olmert, a former think-tank analyst who ran on the Likud list for Knesset.

The consul-general's position in New York, which was a held by Collette Avital, a foreign service officer whom the Likud charges holds strong pro-Labor leanings, is also vacant.

It seems that both Foreign Minister David Levy and Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu are considering different candidates for that post. Levy is said to favor former Likud MK and former consul-general in Toronto Dror Zeigerman. Netanyahu is said to be seriously considering Yossi Ben-Aharon, who served as Shamir's director-general.

The one major diplomatic appointment made by the Likud since coming to power was the appointment of Eliahu Ben-Elissar as ambassador to the US, replacing Itamar Rabinovich.

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# Arafat establishes new university security force

PALESTINIAN Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat is establishing a new security force to contain dissent at Palestinian universities, at a time of growing criticism of him for alleged human rights abuses by the multiple Palestinian security forces operating in the territories.

Arafat ordered the establishment of the *Jihaz Am el-Jamaat*, or University Security Organ, earlier this week, Palestinian sources said. The security force is to be given the job of preventing student uprisings, and putting them down when they occur.

They will be responsible from everything from monitoring the political atmosphere on campus to making arrests of students who incite against the PA," said one source.

During the intifada, the Palestinian universities were a center of protest against Israeli rule. Under the PA, the universities have again become a fertile ground of dissent against the Palestinian authorities.

Arafat originally made the decision to set up a special university security force after fierce clashes occurred in the spring at An-Najah University in Nablus, between students protesting the imprisonment of fellow students by the PA, and Palestinian Police.

The University Security Organ is to be headed by Abu Samir Kudwa. The force itself is only now beginning to be set up, but is slated to begin operations soon, according to the sources.

"I think the establishment of the University Security Organ is just another indication that the human rights situation is only getting worse," said Khader Shkirat, director

BILL HUTMAN

of the Jerusalem-based Palestinian Society for the Protection of Human Rights and the Environment.

"We already have so many different security forces in operation, why do we need more?" said Shkirat, whose organization has been one of the leading Palestinian groups criticizing the alleged human rights abuses by the existing Palestinian security forces.

Shkirat called on Arafat to reverse his decision, and instead concentrate on cleaning up the operations of the existing Palestinian security forces.

At least 10 different PA-affiliated security groups operate in the Palestinian and administered territories, while many of these groups are extremely fractured, with the commander of a district working independently of commanders elsewhere.

The security groups in existence already include Force 17, National Security Police, Civil Police, Preventive Security, Intelligence, Presidential Police, Special Security Police, Criminal Police, Border Police, and Coast Guard, according to Palestinian sources.

"The time has come to reform the entire police and security apparatus in the West Bank and Gaza," Shkirat said.

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"Shabbat Shalom"  
"Chag Sameach"  
"Kvetch"  
"It's A Boy"  
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## Dangerous hysteria

MK Haggai Merom's claim on Wednesday that the government's policies have led the intelligence services to change their assessment of Syria's intentions, and that they now see a threat of war with Syria as a growing possibility, is only the latest in a series of similar accusations by senior Labor figures. On Sunday, for instance, party leader Shimon Peres charged that the "freeze" in talks with Syria would militarily endanger Israel, and on Monday, former minister Yossi Beilin said this freeze might lead to "a violent eruption of hostilities with Syria."

All of these statements are as disingenuous as they are irresponsible. Coming from such senior figures, who can claim ignorance neither of the facts nor of the realities of diplomatic negotiations, they demonstrate a reprehensible readiness to sacrifice the nation's interest to narrow partisan concerns.

For starters, as all three men certainly know, signs of Syria's warlike behavior have been evident for a long while. Syria spent the entirety of the previous government's tenure building up its already formidable military capability still further, to a degree far beyond what it needs for defense.

Just two weeks ago, for instance, a report on Syria's air force by the prestigious *Jane's Defence Weekly* stated that this force's capability "goes far beyond a defensive posture." The report also said Syria is believed to have established Scud missile sites in underground bunkers, which would be within easy striking range of Israeli troops on the Golan Heights. Neither of these clearly threatening developments were achieved in the past two months; Syria has worked on them steadily for the past four years and longer.

That same week, a sister publication called *Jane's Sentinel* said that Syria has the most advanced chemical weapons program in the Arab world, including missiles capable of delivering chemical warheads to any part of Israel and one of the largest stockpiles of chemical weapons in the Third World. Syria also runs its own chemical weapons plant and is investing heavily in the production of new weapons, the report added. Again, this development did not occur overnight; Syria has clearly been preparing for the possibility of a war for some time.

Even this week's Scud-C test is not new; this is the fourth time Syria has tested a self-made Scud-C.

Labor's desire to conceal these facts may be understandable, since they are the best possible argument against giving up the Golan. Most experts agree that Syria would think long and hard about attacking Israel as long as Israel has a clear military advantage, and Israeli artillery on the Golan — which is within striking range of Damascus — is one of the key factors in giving Israel such an advantage. In contrast, Syria's military build-up does not provide reassuring evidence of its peaceful intentions if a treaty were signed.

Worse than the sheer dishonesty of charging that Syria is suddenly reconsidering a military option after having previously abandoned it, however, is the fact that at best, these statements

undermine Israel's negotiating position, and at worst, they could become a self-fulfilling prophecy.

The damage to Israel's negotiating position is obvious. The Golan Residents Committee was not off the mark when it accused Merom of serving Syria's psychological warfare campaign. Syria would clearly like to be able to frighten Israelis into giving up the Golan, and Merom and company are abetting this goal.

Even without the fear element, however, having the opposition lobby the public and the government for Syria's positions greatly lessens the likelihood of concessions from Damascus. Why should Syria agree, for instance, to a compromise on the Golan if it can sit back and let the opposition persuade the public it should be given the whole Golan? It is clearly in Israel's interest to get the best deal possible from Syria, and the best way to achieve that, as any negotiator knows, is by a tough initial bargaining position backed by a united front.

Worst of all, however, is the danger that the opposition's hysteria could actually precipitate a war. As Prof. Anthony Cordesman, a former senior US Defense Department official and now a senior research fellow at the Washington-based Center for Strategic and International Studies, said in an interview to *Ha'aretz* yesterday, the Syrians "interpret Israeli hysteria regarding the possibility of a Syrian attack as preparing the ground for an Israeli preemptive strike against Syria." As such, this hysteria actually increases the danger of a Syrian attack aimed at preempting the presumptive Israeli preemptive strike.

Furthermore, there is no justification for this hysteria. As Cordesman, who is considered a leading expert on military affairs in the Middle East, said, the possibility of a Syrian attack on Israel "exists more in Israeli brains than in the staff rooms of the Syrian army in Damascus," precisely because Syria knows such an attack would be "suicidal."

The government deserves praise for acting quickly to reduce tensions internationally by sending a reassuring message to Syria via the Americans. However, its failure to take equally prompt action locally can only be termed gross irresponsibility.

When a senior opposition MK claims Israeli intelligence now considers a Syrian attack to be a real possibility, the government cannot bury its head in the sand and pretend nothing was ever said. Yet instead of promptly issuing a statement about the ridiculousness of Merom's charges, Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu maintained strict radio silence. Even worse, when asked for a response, instead of issuing a straightforward rebuttal of Merom's remarks, the Prime Minister's Office referred reporters to four MKs: Deputy Education Minister Moshe Peled, coalition chairman Michael Eitan, Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee chairman Uzi Landau and Tsomet MK Eliezer Zandberg.

If many Israelis now believe Merom's threat of impending war with Syria, the government has itself to blame as much as its irresponsible opposition.

## Clueless in Gaza

YOSEF GOELL

About a month and a half ago several Israeli friends of Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat suggested that he try to build up the standing of the PA in Israeli public opinion by maintaining permanent contact with a number of leading Israeli journalists. Arafat reportedly responded enthusiastically.

Two weeks ago Arafat had an interview with Yael Dan of Channel 1, which TV critics and I saw as a total flop.

One of the people who had suggested the interview, Uri Avnery, also tried to arrange a meeting between Arafat and a number of Israeli columnists. This had to be postponed a number of times due to the chairman's peripatetic way of life. I was among a group of such columnists which finally met with Arafat in his office in Gaza on Monday. I can report that the flop with Yael Dan was not a fluke.

Judging by his performance, neither Arafat nor his close advisers have the vaguest idea of how to go about improving his and the PA's image among Israelis. I would go further and argue that he evinced similar obtuseness over influencing Western opinion in his favor.

Arafat's English was better than I expected and he has clearly mastered the superficial mannerisms of TV talk-show propagandists. But what we got was a string of tired cliches and brazen evasions of any questions that cut too close to the bone. "Preserving the peace of the brave," "We shouldn't miss this historic opportunity" and "I am doing 100 percent of what I

can to prevent terrorism against Israel, but I can't guarantee 100 percent success; neither could you," are cliches that no longer cut water with Israelis, three years after the dramatic breakthrough at Oslo.

Arafat's insistence of collusion between "Israeli fanatics" (like General Security Service provocateur Avishai Raviv) and the

Palestinians to admit, but the success or failure of their national endeavor will depend primarily on their success in evoking the empathy and support of large segments of the Israeli public.

They may have needed it less under the previous government, in which Shimon Peres and his coterie served as their major apologists. But after Arafat and his

that those terrorists are indeed being kept in jail? Or am I being too naive?

The wave of car thefts in which thousands of vehicles disappear into the autonomous areas is another issue which needs addressing to persuade Israelis of Palestinian goodwill. Effective and visible PA mobilization to prevent those thefts and to punish their perpetrators would have an electrifying effect on Israeli opinion.

At the meeting, Arafat was just as obtuse in regard to questions about the sorry state of human rights in the PA areas. He denied that eight Palestinians had died as a result of being tortured during interrogation in PA security facilities. He claimed that Palestinian human rights activist Bassam Eid, who was abducted for a day by the PA and has reported on many alleged PA human rights abuses, was from Jerusalem and had Israeli citizenship, and thus could not be trusted. Human rights activist Dr. Ayad Sarraj, thrown into jail after telling Anthony Lewis of the *New York Times* that Palestinians had had more freedom under the Israeli occupation than under Arafat's Palestinian Authority, had violated the law, he said.

Arafat himself clearly does not have a clue, but isn't there anyone among the Western-educated intellectuals of the Palestinian national movement who could take the lead in trying to establish a real rapport with Israeli public opinion?

The writer comments on public affairs.

## The success of the Palestinian endeavor is dependent on winning the favor of the Israeli public

Hamas and Islamic Jihad extremists in the Palestinian camp, or that the GSS was behind the suicide bombing at Beit Lid in which 21 IDF soldiers were killed last year, can only be termed outright paranoia.

WE WERE taken on a quickie drive through Gaza City and the Strip. The depressing economic deprivation that we saw — primarily the result of overpopulation, PA fecklessness and corruption, and the six-month-long closure — is a problem that can only be addressed effectively with a large measure of Israeli cooperation and goodwill.

This will not be elicited by threats of soliciting anti-Israeli pressure from the co-sponsors of Oslo. It may be unpleasant for the

followers did their utmost to bring about the advent of Binyamin Netanyahu's Likud government, they need such Israeli empathy and support more than ever before.

What the Palestinians need now are dramatic deeds which can be turned to their advantage by adroit opinion-shapers.

Two examples come to mind. Arafat claims that he is doing his utmost to combat terrorism. As much as it causes us chagrin, one can understand his opposition to handing over Hamas and Islamic Jihad terrorists whom he claims to have rounded up and jailed, or Palestinian killers who have escaped from Israeli-held territory into his own safe havens. But why not organize periodic visits by Israeli journalists to convince us

## Still anchored in Ankara

GERALD M. STEINBERG

The political conflicts in Turkey that allowed Necmettin Erbakan, the leader of the Islamic Rafah party, to become prime minister with only 21 percent of the vote and his subsequent visit to Iran, led many Israeli analysts to proclaim the end of the short honeymoon between Ankara and Jerusalem.

Iran and Syria celebrated what they saw as the end of this brief strategic alliance. Iraq's Saddam Hussein also stood to benefit from the shift in Turkey's policies, with an agreement for a new gas pipeline linking the two countries, and promises of Turkish support for further easing or ending UN sanctions.

However, a few days later, events in Cyprus demonstrated that international relations are always complex, and that ideology and national interests are often in conflict. In a series of violent confrontations, two Greek Cypriots were killed by Turkish troops on the other side of the Green Line that separates Nicosia.

These clashes reminded Turkey, and the military in particular, of the costs of alienating Israel, the US, and Western Europe, and the inability of Iran, Iraq, and Syria to provide much help. Turkey and Greece have been rivals for decades (and their ancestors for centuries before them), both in the Aegean and in the Mediterranean, where territorial and maritime disputes have been continuous.

The conflict has been particularly acute in Cyprus, which is inhabited by ethnic Greeks and Turks. In 1974, the Greek leadership and the military junta in

Athens sought to alter the status quo unilaterally and unite with Greece (a policy known as Enosis). Turkey sent troops, and a fragile cease-fire was arranged. Since then, the Greek population of Cyprus, as well as the government in Athens, have been waiting for an opportunity to force the removal of the Turkish military, and to reverse the ethnic cleansing

as a "timeless enemy." During his visit to Iran, he signed a gas supply agreement reportedly worth \$23 billion over 20 years.

The visit and agreement were clear indications of Erbakan's plans to implement his ideology, and to demolish the growing ties between Israel and Turkey. He also defied the US, which threatened to impose sanctions on com-

## Events involving Turkey and Cyprus go beyond reminding Israel that relations and alliances can change overnight

that took place on the island. The renewed violence in Cyprus was not deliberately timed to take advantage of Turkey's political vulnerability following Erbakan's accession to office and his Iranian-oriented policies.

The demonstrations marked the anniversary of the 1974 war, and probably would have taken place even if Erbakan had not gone to Tehran. Nevertheless, the renewed pressure caught Erbakan and his supporters isolated with respect to the US and NATO, of which Turkey and Greece are members, and Israel, which is a major power in the Eastern Mediterranean.

IN THE past, Erbakan had spoken about creating a military pact among Islamic states (an "Islamic NATO") and he referred to Israel

panies and states dealing with Iran during the week of Erbakan's visit.

Even without the renewed Cyprus crisis, Erbakan's government and the flirtation with Iran might have been short-lived. The US government objected to Erbakan's policy, and the secular and military leadership in Ankara noted the high cost of alienating the Americans. The severance of the political and military links with Israel, established under Tancu Ciller's leadership, would increase these costs.

With this renewed emphasis on their vital military interests, it is unlikely that Turkey's leaders will end the cooperation with Israel in fighting terrorism (Palestinian and Kurdish), or suspend the agreement allowing Israeli and Turkish air

forces to train over each other's territory. In addition, the Turkish military is likely to renew negotiations for an agreement for the Israel Aircraft Industries to upgrade its American-made F-4 jets.

The incidents in Cyprus may also produce a domestic political change in Turkey. While Erbakan was in Tehran, negotiating with the ayatollahs, Ciller, who remains foreign minister, immediately went to Cyprus. She understood that the threat of violence in the Mediterranean and the possibility of a renewed clash with Greece are far more important to Turkey's national interest than the agreements reached in Tehran. In public opinion polls and elections, Ciller's visit to Cyprus to defend Turkey's honor and security will be far more important than Erbakan's reception in Tehran.

These events involving Turkey and Cyprus also have important lessons for Israel, beyond the reminder that in the Middle East, relations and alliances can change overnight. Like Erbakan, a few Israeli ministers still place narrow ideological objectives over fundamental national security interests.

They are willing to risk a conflict with Israel's allies, including the US, to establish a few more isolated settlements. Israel, like Turkey, needs to concentrate on its primary interests and not risk the costs of ideological diversions.

The writer is a senior research fellow at the Begin-Sadat Center for Strategic Studies at Bar-Ilan University.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### LEADERSHIP FAILURE

Sir, — President Clinton is a proven friend of Israel and the Jewish people. His decision to reject Pollard's clemency appeal is a direct result of the American Jewish leadership's failure to press Pollard's case within the Jewish community. Absent a clear and unambiguous mandate from the American Jewish community, there is little reason for President Clinton, in an election year, to assume the political risks of freeing a confessed spy.

The American rabbinate has long gone on record as supporting Pollard's release from prison. Over 1,000 rabbis representing all denominations of American Jewry have publicly signed a petition appealing for a commutation of Pollard's sentence to the time already served. Unfortunately, with few notable exceptions, this high-profile campaign has never been embraced by synagogue lay organizations and Jewish defense organizations. American Jewish leaders, fearful of dual loyalty accusations, have abandoned Jonathan Pollard.

Efforts to secure Pollard's freedom need to be directed first at the American Jewish community. Until an overwhelming number of American Jews are convinced that Pollard has paid an appropriate price for

breaking the law, it will be difficult for any president to grant him clemency. Moreover, no parole board will overturn the decision of the President of the United States.

During several lengthy prison visits with Jonathan Pollard in Marion, Ill. and Butner, N.C., he expressed profound remorse to me for betraying the trust of the US. Jonathan Pollard is very much aware of the incalculable damage his activities caused to American-Israeli bilateral relations. He deeply regrets that his behavior, however well intentioned, harmed the interests of the US.

The time has come for American Jewish leaders to exercise leadership on the Pollard affair. Damaging as this scandal is to the record of Jews as loyal citizens of the US, ignoring it will not make it disappear. The misguided actions of one individual should not be allowed to impugn the character of millions of Jews who loyally serve our country. As proud and loyal Americans, we have a duty to demand equal justice under the law. Pollard's continued punishment is both excessive and unjust.

RABBI RICHARD THALER  
New York.

### LACK OF MOTIVATION

Sir, — The reason for the gradual erosion in the motivation of our youth to serve their country, is crystal-clear to anyone with a discerning eye who is prepared to be honest with himself. Our fancy, luxurious lifestyle. The obsession to go overseas, to have two cars, build a villa and give each child his own bedroom — these are the reasons. How on earth is a young man supposed to switch psychologically every two to three weeks from the luxury of his

fancy home life to giving of himself, to endangering his life fighting terrorists? Not so many years ago, when a soldier came home for Shabbat every two to three weeks, the home he came back to had very little luxury and absolutely no privacy, so that the contrast with his living conditions in the army was not so enormous.

MIKE GLAZER  
Ganei Tikva.

### NO SILLY TEENS

Sir, — Your editorial of August 13, "Adolescent behavior," underestimates the intelligence of teenage schoolgirls. I was a 15-year-old "silly teen" when John Kennedy was assassinated. What did I know about politics? Not much. But well before 15, I knew the difference between right and wrong and that murder was wrong.

I disagree that these teens' feelings have more to do with growing up than with a failing on the part of the state religious schools. After Kennedy's murder, classrooms discussed the terrible wrongs which had been done by Oswald and Jack Ruby. For a teenager to consider Rival Amir as anything but a murderer, indicates that the basic values of right and wrong were lacking in classroom discussions.

ARLEEN KLINE  
Givatayim.

### NO PREJUDICE

Sir, — Michael B. Oren tells me that, as an American immigrant, I am "traditionally deprecated and... dismissed" by Israelis ("Scared of the 'stranger,'" August 9), so I can only suppose that a quintessentially Israeli outfit like Israel Military Industries and everyone in it did an outstanding job of hiding their feelings during the years I worked there. If I never spotted prejudice against me for my awful Hebrew or national origin there or anywhere else in Israel, it must be because Israelis are even better dissemblers than Yankee-haters.

And anyway, we are not "the only immigrant community to come here out of volition, often sacrificing higher standards of living." Has Michael B. Oren never heard of South Africans (among others)?

DONN O'NEARA  
Petah Tikva.

## POSTSCRIPTS

IT WASN'T the kind of remark President Clinton hears at state dinners and White House ceremonies.

"You suck — and those boys died," Patricia Mendoza says she told the president when he tried to shake her hand at a food fair. Mendoza pulled away and refused to shake hands.

Mendoza, who says she was upset over the June 25 bombing in Saudi Arabia that killed 19 US servicemen, was arrested along with her husband, Glenn, for disorderly conduct.

Secret Service agents say they heard something which may have been a threat and are trying to determine if Mendoza threatened

to kill the president — a federal offense.

The disorderly conduct charges don't stem directly from any threat to Clinton. When Secret Service agents tried to question Mendoza, she and her husband caused a public commotion, police said.

Mrs. Mendoza dismissed any notion that her comment was politically motivated.

"I'm apolitical," she said. "I vote for the one I like best."

The newfound fame is weighing on the Mendozas. "People are driving by with binoculars to look at my house," she said.

All the same, they aren't seeing much, she added: "We're very boring people."

A WITCH-BURNING ceremony in Australia turned into a brawl when feminist protesters tried to drag an effigy of a witch from the top of a huge pyre.

Police were called to Casuarina Beach after reports of a disturbance during St. Hans' Day celebrations by Scandinavians.

Protester Marie Matthews said she felt sickened by the sight of the effigy. "It was the typical representation of a witch — long hair, big wart on the nose, the hat — all the negative side of women. I knew there was no way I could allow this to go down — to me it was a representation of the burning of womankind."

Bonfire organizer Kai Hansen

said the ceremony, believed to date back 1,200 years to Viking times, had never provoked trouble before.

"Then all of a sudden this year, this bunch turns up," he said. "They were screaming out things like 'That's me, that's my sister you're burning' and from the way they looked it was pretty hard not to yell back that they were right."

Hansen complained that the protesters "were throwing sand in our eyes, they were throwing burning wood at people. Luckily, it had been later and we'd had a couple more beers, it might have got out of hand," he said.

هلنا من الاصل



The Jerusalem Post  
Abbas:  
Iran  
plotting  
overthrow  
of PA

# Back to the basics

ZEVULUN HAMMER

My return to the Education Ministry was accompanied by a shocking realization of the widening of serious gaps in Jewish education in the country's secular school system. These gaps threaten to create a new type of Israeli, those who know very little about their Jewish heritage. As Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu mentioned recently, the lack of basic knowledge is extremely worrisome.

In my previous terms as education minister, from 1977-1984 and 1990-1992, we used feedback from pupils to determine that a great many of them felt distanced from the type of traditional Jewish curricula offered to them. It was during this second term that I initiated the commission, headed by Prof. Aliza Shenhar (former rector of Haifa University and current ambassador to Moscow), to seek ways of improving the Jewish studies curricula for state schools.

Unfortunately, the old problem continued of pupils' total alienation to the traditional Judaism practised by our grandfathers and ancestors. What has happened since I left office in 1992 is a deepening of the rejection of historical Judaism, and this trend must and will be reversed by the ministry.

RELIGIOUS youth have a built-in framework for safeguarding a high level of religious and national awareness, based on religious values. Secular youth do not have an inherent way of ensuring this, and thus the education system must fill the gap.

It is obvious that students in secular schools should be exposed to other views of Judaism, and the wider interest shown by these pupils is commendable. But what is happening is that we have still not found a way to make the study of traditional Judaism palatable to these secular pupils, who will never acquire the knowledge of

their roots if the education system does not generate new interest in these topics.

The answer to the problem should be an evaluation of the study methods used to teach traditional Judaism. How can we make it more applicable to today's secular pupil? One must realize that traditional Judaism is studied all

It's natural for a nation to want to learn more about its history and ancient philosophers

over the world by non-Jewish scholars and educators, who have found it interesting and relevant enough for further study. Surely the "People of the Book" can use its educational skills to make the ancient Jewish classics attractive to youngsters.

It is natural for any nation to want to learn more about its history and ancient philosophers. The challenge before us is not to discard or water down the traditional study of our religion, but to use the means at our disposal, including advanced technology and communications devices, to teach ourselves about ourselves.

CERTAIN elements of Israeli society have unjustly and inaccurately predicted that I would use my authority to, in their words, "force Judaism down the throats" of secular Jewish pupils. This prediction is as ridiculous as it is misleading. I am fully cognizant of the danger of compelling people to learn, which is contrary to true Jewish thought.

What I do intend to do, without

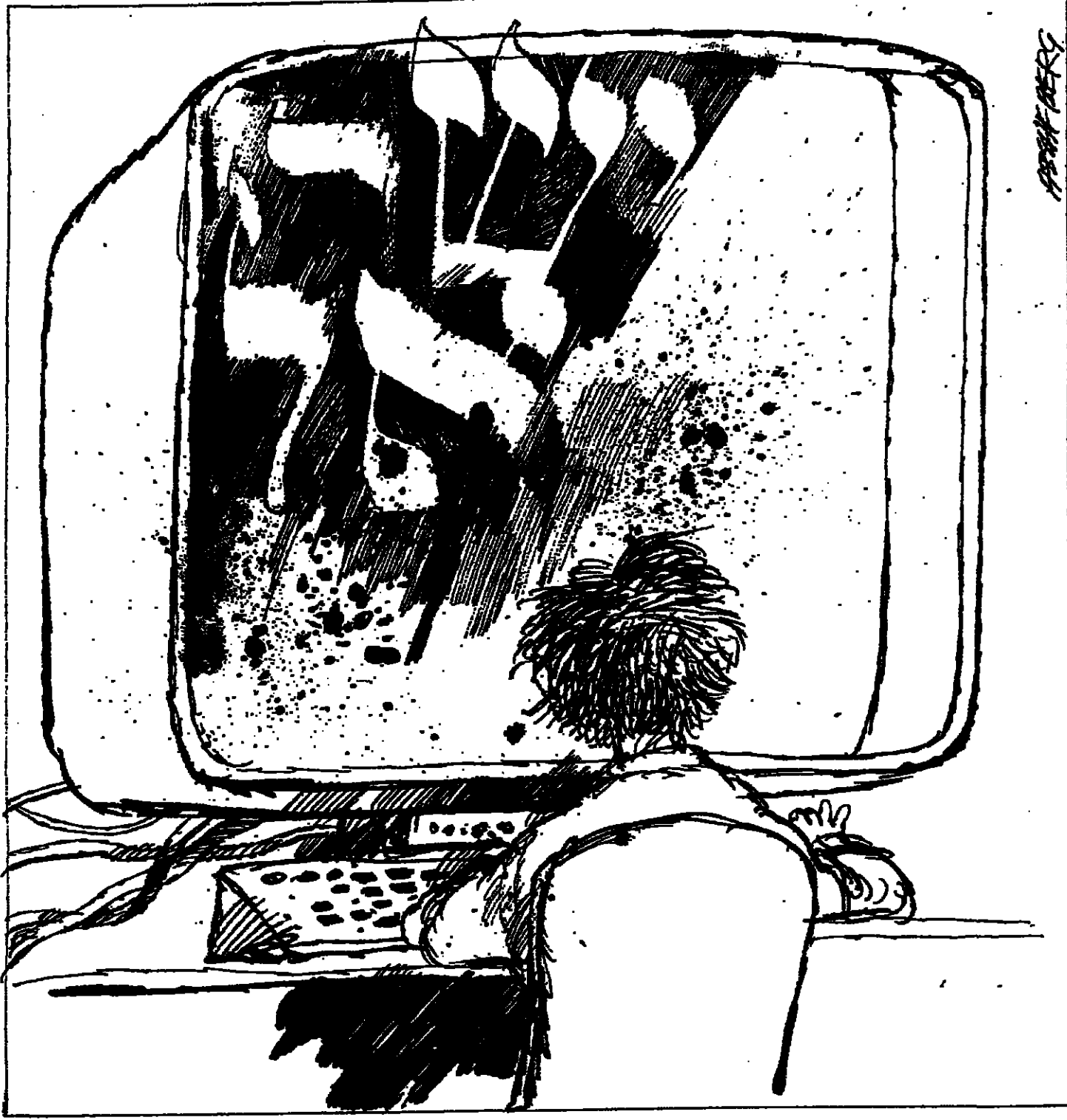
making any apologies, is to reinforce the existing study of traditional Judaism - including more hours and widening the curriculum. Just as pupils in the US spend many hours studying the basics of American literature and early American thought, Israeli pupils will get their portion of their own history. What they choose to do with this information is their own business, but they will at least be afforded the opportunity to learn about their religion and history as it was taught throughout the ages.

The ministry is currently studying the various alternatives for overcoming this problem, and hopes to implement the recommendations at the earliest opportunity. But I will not join those who say that there is no compatibility between teaching traditional Judaism and everyday life.

The relevant courses for learning about Judaism will not be "ghetto-oriented," but will be combined with the study of history, geography, civics, culture and the arts. These courses will be an inseparable part of the general education system. Indeed, the Jewish people have survived because we have preserved our traditions, and prospered because we have found a way to combine our heritage with the rapidly changing world.

Surely we can find a way to modify our teaching methods and make the study of the Bible, Talmud, Rashi and Jewish customs more applicable to today's Israeli society. This will be one of my primary goals as minister. Traditional Jewish thought is rich and diversified enough to be studied by anyone, and surely by Israeli secular students who need and want to know more about their origins.

The writer, a deputy prime minister, is education minister and head of the National Religious Party.



## Laws and orders

MARK A. HELLER

"Wherever Law ends, Tyranny begins" - John Locke

Contempt for the rule of law is a growing problem in Israel. The danger may not yet be clear and present, but unless the trend is recognized and reversed, one of the essential foundations of democracy will be undermined. While alarmism may be unjustified, there is good cause for vigilance and concern that the country not get on a slippery slope which begins with a little corner-cutting and ends in oppression.

Recent suggestions to neutralize the High Court of Justice threaten the separation of powers upon which democracy rests. Without an independent judiciary able to interpret the legality of government actions, governments with a Knesset majority will themselves decide what they may or may not do, and that leads directly to arbitrariness and the abuse of power.

It is not hard to understand why the idea of constraining the judiciary has so much superficial appeal. Anyone put out by pettifogging lawyers might be tempted to second the butcher's vow in Shakespeare's *Henry VI*: "The first thing we do, let's kill all the lawyers," and lawyer jokes are almost as popular as jokes about politicians. But when politicians and officials themselves tolerate or support the idea of circumventing the legal system, they betray the trust of the public they were elected or appointed to serve.

Impatience with the constraints of the law is not unique to Israel; during the investigation of the "Irangate" scandal in the US, some of Oliver North's associates told a Senate panel that they knowingly violated American law because they were serving a "higher cause" - the national interest. Nor is it confined to those inspired by divine commandment. Legal procedures are also seen as an impediment to the pursuit of purely secular objectives, like security: the late Yitzhak Rabin did not conceal his belief that the High Court of Justice got in the

way of the fight against terrorism. He justified his expectation that the Palestinian Authority would be able to combat terrorism more effectively because it would be free to operate without the court or the B'Tselem human rights organization.

NEVERTHELESS, the most dramatic differences about the role

When politicians and officials tolerate circumventing the legal system, they endanger the basis of democracy

and rule of law in Israel have coincided with the secular-religious divide. This involves a conflict over the true source of sovereignty and it underlies many of the unresolved dilemmas in the Israeli body politic - from the question of the permissibility of transferring parts of the Land of Israel to non-Jews to the question of who has the authority to decide whether Rehov Bar-Ilan should or should not be closed.

Although the alleged indifference of the High Court to religious sensitivities prompted the recent demands by bareid politicians to subject Supreme Court justices to retroactive approval by the political echelon, Rehov Bar-Ilan is just a symptom of the deeper issue: the rejection of the notion that positive law, which is made by men, should take precedence over divine law.

Underlying it all is the failure to adopt a constitution that would entrench citizens rights and regulate relations among the executive, legislative and judicial branches. This has left a vacuum which invites both judicial activism and continuing challenges to it. Although this issue has never been definitively resolved, it has been contained for over half a

century because the government and the Israeli mainstream have resisted challenges to the institutions of positive law.

In the last few months, however, there are more worrisome signs of disrespect for legal procedures and resentment of those who insist on the enforcement of legal requirements.

The figure at the eye of this potential storm is Attorney-General Michael Ben-Yair. Since the elections, Ben-Yair has forced the prime minister to cancel his dismissal of the civil service commissioner, ordered an investigation of suspected criminal actions by Justice Minister Ya'acov Ne'eman (who was then obliged to resign), and instructed Internal Security Minister Avigdor Kahalani to show cause why the appointment of a new chief of the Investigations Branch should not go forward.

As a result, Ben-Yair may well be the most feared individual in Jerusalem, and there are already voices calling for his ouster.

A previous prime minister, Yitzhak Shamir, once got rid of another attorney-general, Yitzhak Zamir when he, too, made it difficult for the government to act as freely as it wished. It can only be hoped that Netanyahu will avoid the temptation to follow the same course. Undermining the rule of law is the wrong thing to do, and if the wrong thing is done, Israel risks turning into a banana republic, fired by visions of grace and glory but lacking the freedoms that make them worth having.

The writer is senior research associate at the Jaffee Center for Strategic Studies at Tel Aviv University.

## An invitation to terror

URI AVNERY

Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu disagrees with Abraham Lincoln. The great American president stated, "You can fool all of the people some of the time, and some of the people all of the time. But you can't fool all of the people all of the time." Netanyahu begs to differ.

Netanyahu has invited Syrian President Hafez Assad to the negotiating table "without preconditions," after having committed himself to keeping the Golan Heights. Not surprisingly, Assad views this offer with contempt.

Netanyahu also intends to conduct new negotiations on Hebron, while throwing away the original agreements reached after long and difficult negotiations - agreements that were to have been implemented three months ago. His stated goal is to continue the permanent occupation of the entire city, while granting the Palestinians the right to "direct their own lives."

Netanyahu is ignoring the paragraph in the Oslo Accords which states that Palestinian residents of Jerusalem are to elect Jerusalemite representatives to the Palestinian Council. He forcibly prevents the Jerusalemite legislators from fulfilling their duty, claiming all the while that it is the Palestinians who are violating the accords. He sabotages the work of the Palestinian Council by preventing its members from attending their meetings. Soldiers at checkpoints systematically bully Palestinian legislators (as well as any other Palestinians they find).

He attempts to humiliate and demean Palestinian Authority President Yasser Arafat at every opportunity, with words of contempt

and by refusing to meet in person, in order to undermine Arafat's position and to incite his people against him. Netanyahu is violating the explicit paragraph in Oslo II which required the unconditional freeing of all female prisoners and detainees long ago. He is violating the paragraphs which state that at this time negotiations should be in progress regarding the fate of Jerusalem, refugees, settlements, borders, and security (on both sides). He is violating the paragraphs

with the peace process. How long can one fool the Palestinians, the Israelis, the US, the whole world? A week? A month? Three months? Until after American elections? A year? When will it all explode?

WHEN, indeed? The intifada broke out in December 1987. It took the General Security Service and the IDF entirely by surprise, as well as defense minister Yitzhak Rabin,

which state that at this time the army should be redeploying from a third of Area C, which includes the majority of the West Bank. He is violating the paragraphs relating to the establishment of the four "safe passages" between the West Bank and Gaza. He is implementing the "Ariel Sharon Plan" in order to establish settlements throughout the Palestinian territories, using the usual deceitful methods - such as enlarging existing settlements and building bypass roads.

And while doing all the above, he declares morning and night that the Palestinians are breaking the agreements, and that for that reason it is impossible to continue

ical mass, the dam burst.

Now it is happening again. A terrible mass of rage and frustration has been accumulating in the Palestinian territories, and it is growing daily. No one can know ahead of time exactly when the next intifada could break out and in what form. Bus bombings? Killing of settlers? A mass uprising? War between the armed Palestinian forces and the IDF? A declaration of a Palestinian state? A renewed occupation of the Gaza Strip and the West Bank cities? The breakdown of relations between Israel and Arab states? The political undoing of King Hussein and Hosni Mubarak under a flood of public rage? War in Lebanon? War between Israel and Syria? Some or all of the above?

Then, a huge cry will ring out. Oslo is dead! The Palestinians are breaking the accords! We've always said that the Arabs can't be trusted! They're plotting our destruction! We'll show them! We must expel them from our land! We must build settlements all over Greater Israel!

Considering that the inevitable consequences of Netanyahu's current course of action are the annulment of the Oslo Accords, cessation of the peace process, and the start of a new cycle of bloodshed - it would be fair to assume that these are his intentions to begin with. The only question remaining is whether he is aware of it or whether he is fooling not only the world but himself as well.

Courtesy of Ma'ariv.

A terrible mass of rage and frustration has been accumulating in the Palestinian territories, and it is growing daily

who did not understand what was happening and so did not, at first, hurry home from abroad.

A year earlier, I had described in detail the uprising that was about to occur. How is it that I had known a secret which all the GSS interrogators couldn't extract by means of every conceivable method of torture? Very simple - I had listened to the Palestinian community.

The outbreak of the intifada seemed sudden. But it only appeared that way. Actually it was like the bursting of a dam behind which water had accumulated for a long time. The level of the water had been rising gradually, quietly, unfelt, until, having reached a crit-

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## Russians, Chechen rebels sign peace deal

DMITRY KUZNETS  
NOVYE ATAGI, Russia

RUSSIAN security chief Alexander Lebed signed a deal with separatists in Chechnya yesterday, promising to withdraw government forces to end three weeks of bloodshed in Grozny, the Chechen capital.

"Troops will be withdrawn from Grozny because constitutional order cannot be introduced using air and artillery strikes. They will be withdrawn from the whole of Chechnya," a triumphant Lebed told reporters in this village about 20 kilometers south of Grozny.

Moscow's forces have been attacking Grozny to try to oust rebels who seized it in a raid on August 6 that humiliated the Russian military. The separatists said the attack was in retaliation for Russian bombardments of Chechen villages.

The Russian attacks followed a deal with the rebels for disarmament, in return for step-by-step troop withdrawals from the mainly Moslem region to be completed by September 1.

Truces have come and gone in 20 months of the Chechen conflict, and it was too soon to say whether the new deal would bring respite for civilians who have been fleeing Grozny in tens of thousands since the raid began.

It was also unclear how much power Lebed actually wields. Though President Boris Yeltsin appointed him his special envoy to Chechnya, Security Council secretary and security adviser, he criticized him in an interview earlier on Wednesday. "I am not completely satisfied with Lebed's performance in Chechnya," Yeltsin told RIA news agency in an interview shown in a television feed.

Lebed predicted further criticism from his many opponents in Moscow - democrats and hardliners alike. But he seemed not to care, saying: "Anyone who is unhappy is welcome to complain."

The exact text of the deal, signed by two of the more compromising figures on the two sides, was not available.

But Itar-Tass news agency said it provided for disengagement of Russian and rebel forces battling for 20 months in Chechnya and Lebed provided some pointers as he spoke amid a crowd of about 100 reporters, bodyguards and onlookers.

"Joint military administrations will be set up in Grozny to protect the city from looters and bandits," Lebed said.

"I will come back with a draft political agreement in two days. We will discuss it and sign it," he added. That deal would also address the root of the fighting - Chechnya's status.

Lebed said forces would start withdrawing tomorrow from southern Chechnya and joint military administrations would be set up at the same time. A deadline for a Russian assault on Grozny had passed quietly yesterday morning as Lebed held a second day of talks.

Interfax news agency said the sides were discussing a nine-point deal which addressed the situation in Grozny, separating the fighters, stopping looting and averting clashes.

Lebed's press spokesman Alexander Barkhatov said the two sides were working out a "day-by-day schedule" to stop the fighting.

Yeltsin appointed Lebed his security chief after the former paratrooper captured 15 percent of the votes in the first round of Russia's presidential election this year.

But he criticized him after the talks began but before the deal was signed, saying: "We must remember, when he met voters he always promised to solve the Chechen problem if he had power. Now he has power. But unfortunately the results of his work are not yet obvious."



Two little girls hold teddy bears as they look at the funeral cortege arriving at the Saint Martin basilica in Liege yesterday. (Reuters)

## Two victims of pedophile buried

LIEGE, Belgium (AP) - Two eight-year-old victims of a pedophile were buried in an emotional funeral yesterday as investigators widened the search for young girls who disappeared in recent years.

The nationally telecast funeral of Melissa Russo and Julie Lejeune capped a week of shock since Marc Dutroux, a convicted child rapist, led police to the bodies of the two girls buried in a garden.

The pair probably died of starvation in the cellar of a house he owned in southern Belgium.

Dutroux, 38, has admitted kidnapping at least two other girls who remain missing.

Yesterday, relatives, friends and hundreds of sympathizers packed Saint Martin's Cathedral to bid farewell to Melissa and Julie, whose bodies lay in two white coffins.

Outside the church, thousands more watched the ceremony on a large TV screen, and the emotional funeral was broadcast throughout Belgium. Offices and shops in this eastern town were closed in the morning to show support for the dead girls' families.

The funeral continued an outpouring of grief and horror that began a week ago when two sexually abused girls were found in the cellar of Dutroux's house in Marcinelle.

Dutroux was released from prison in 1992 after serving only part of a 13-year sentence for raping five under-age girls.

His case has revealed shortcomings in Belgium's justice system. He won early release from prison despite recommendations against it from case workers.

After his release, officials failed to keep tabs on Dutroux, who managed to get a monthly

social allowance of 38,000 (NIS 3,600) on the strength of a declaration that prison left him psychologically unable to work.

His case has brought media allegations police ignored tipoffs that Dutroux had resumed kidnapping children after he left prison and started secret cellars to hold young girls before selling them abroad.

The case of Melissa and Julie is particularly heart-wrenching because police searched Dutroux's house twice last year but failed to find the two, who likely were hidden in the cellar.

Dutroux told police the girls probably starved to death because a friend, Bernard Weinstein, failed to feed them while he was in jail on an unrelated theft charge. Dutroux said he killed Weinstein, whose body police found alongside the girls.

## Hussein: Riots harmed Jordan's image

AMMAN (Reuters) - King Hussein told Jordan's parliament yesterday that weekend riots against higher bread prices had harmed Jordan's image as a stable country and allowed its enemies to gloat.

"The recent events allowed our enemies to gloat and allowed them to get at what they wanted," he told the 80-seat lower house summoned to the palace as part of efforts to contain the crisis after the worst unrest since 1989.

"What happened had a negative impact on years of what we tried to build to tell the world that Jordan is an oasis of stability," he added.

"But the image, as you saw on worldwide media, was pictures of an unstable country...we provided them with material to talk about us as they do not want good for this country."

The king antagonized many Jordanians on Saturday when he suspended the summer session of parliament, where a majority of deputies opposed the price rise. He vowed an "iron fist" policy against unrest, which erupted in the southern city of Karak after Friday prayers and spread to nearby towns.

The king's action increased anger at Prime Minister Abdel-Karim Kabariti, who ignored parliament's views and pushed ahead with his bread decision.

The king said he backed popular demands to reevaluate the country's democratic, political and economic experience "to define the problems and challenges that force us to take bitter and painful decisions."

He also praised Kabariti, 46, and his team of generally younger politicians whom he entrusted when they took over in February with initiating administrative reforms and ending apathy common in the bloated civil service.

## ANC apologizes for human rights abuses in struggle against apartheid

INSISTING that its cause was just, President Nelson Mandela's African National Congress admitted yesterday that some of the means used in its struggle against apartheid were inexcusable.

The public apology before a commission investigating the human rights abuses that characterized the apartheid era came a day after the National Party made a similar confession.

While it was never policy to attack civilians or to abuse suspected spies, the ANC admitted in a 300-page submission to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission that "excesses did occur."

"The ANC has acknowledged that in a number of instances breaches in policy did occur, and deeply regrets civilian casualties," the party said in the document presented by a 23-member delegation, headed by Deputy President Thabo Mbeki.

## German court sentences neo-Nazi Lauck to four years

ANDREW GRAY  
HAMBURG

A HAMBURG court jailed US neo-Nazi leader Gary Lauck for four years yesterday for pumping banned propaganda material into Germany from his US-based publishing house.

A defiant Lauck, from Lincoln, Nebraska, yelled a tirade of abuse at the court after his conviction for inciting racial hatred.

"The struggle will go on," the 43-year-old shouted in German before being escorted out by security guards.

Lauck's lawyer vowed he would appeal against the court's decision, arguing that his client should have been set free because he had not committed any offense under German law.

The conviction was a major coup for prosecutors, who had been trying for years to scupper Lauck's worldwide network - the main source of antisemitic propaganda material flowing into Germany since the 1970s.

"Lauck possessed a well-oiled propaganda machine, honed during more than 20 years," presiding judge Guenter Bertram told the court.

"He set up a propaganda canon and fired it at Germany."

Eager to put Lauck behind bars

quickly and avoid a long and complex trial, prosecutor Bernd Mauruschat limited his charges to offenses since 1994. He had demanded a five-year jail term but said he was satisfied with the court's sentence.

Publishing and distributing neo-Nazi material is illegal in Germany but Lauck's defense team had argued that US freedom of speech laws meant he was free to produce his swastika-covered books, magazines, videos and flags in the United States.

Lauck, dressed in a sober blue suit and sporting his trademark Hitleresque black moustache, showed no sign of emotion as Bertram spent more than an hour reading out the verdict and explaining the court's decision.

But as he was about to be led away, Lauck turned to reporters and blurted out a virtually incomprehensible quick-fire diatribe against the court.

"Neither the National Socialists (Nazis) nor the communists dared to kidnap an American citizen," he shouted, in an oblique reference to his extradition to Germany.

"That's the truth."

His attorney, Hans-Otto Sieg, told reporters outside the courtroom that the judges had failed to address whether a German court could convict someone for producing propaganda on foreign soil and sending it to Germany.

"You can't just say he set up a propaganda canon and fired it at Germany," Sieg said. "Journalists may be able to write that but it's not a legal point. I still don't see which German law he is supposed to have broken."

Bertram said Lauck was obsessed by Nazism and devoted his life to his National Socialist German Workers' Party Foreign Organization (NSDAP-AO), which derives its name from the full German title of Hitler's Nazi party.

The court also rejected Sieg's argument that Lauck's extradition from Denmark, where he was arrested in March last year at the request of German authorities, was illegal.

Lauck will probably be free in around two and a half years as the court ruled that the 15 months he has spent in custody since his arrest should be subtracted from his prison term. (Reuters)

## India blames West for failure on test ban treaty

NEW DELHI (AP) - India is trying to shift blame from itself for scuttling a nuclear test ban treaty, saying yesterday the West adopted double standards and attempted to push through a flawed text.

India refused to sign a Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty in Geneva after the five nuclear powers - the United States, Russia, France, Britain and China - refused to commit themselves to a timetable for eliminating their arsenals.

"India says it can't sign away the right to make nuclear weapons because it is trapped in a three-cornered arms race in the Asian Subcontinent. It has to keep up with China, while Pakistan has to match India's capabilities."

"We cannot accept constraints on our option as long as nuclear weapon states continue to rely on nuclear arsenals for their security," Gujral said.

In his first elaborate statement after India effectively blocked the treaty in Geneva, Foreign Minister Inder Kumar Gujral said although the text was modified to accommodate China, negotiators paid scant attention to India's concerns.

"We were told that the text could not be modified but as we have seen, the draft text has been modified to accommodate one country's concerns," Gujral said.

## Clinton signs welfare overhaul

WASHINGTON (AP) - President Clinton put his signature yesterday on a historic overhaul of America's welfare system. He promised the legislation will "recreate the nation's social bargain with the poor" by compelling welfare recipients to go to work.

In his third White House ceremony this week, Clinton signed into law a new state-run network of aid, ending six decades of guaranteed federal cash assistance to the poor.

The ceremony, in the Rose Garden of the White House, is the president's third effort in as many days to take the headlines away from Republican rival Bob Dole by giving a dramatic send-off to high-profile legislation.

On Tuesday Clinton signed a bill raising the minimum wage, and on Wednesday he approved a law that ends the practice of denying health insurance coverage because of pre-existing medical conditions and ensures workers access to health insurance when they change jobs.

The welfare transformation ends a federal guarantee to the poor that has existed since the days of President Franklin Roosevelt.

It was denounced by many erstwhile Clinton allies. Marian Wright Edelman, president of the Children's Defense Fund, called it a "moment of shame... the biggest betrayal of children and the poor."

But it is expected to appeal to a broad range of moderate to conservative voters.

Clinton is considering a package of proposals to ease the burden on welfare recipients. It includes a possible tax break for firms that hire people off welfare rolls and a series of economic development ideas aimed at areas with large shares of welfare recipients.

The proposals will be unveiled next week at the Democratic National Convention in Chicago as part of Clinton's list of initiatives and goals for a second term.

Clinton twice vetoed Republican welfare proposals, denouncing them as "extremist" plans that would hurt children.

But he agreed to sign the third version, even though it contained provisions he opposed, including deep cuts in child nutrition programs and tough restrictions on granting welfare to legal aliens and their families.

Clinton vows to work to repeal these provisions if he wins a second term.

The new law ends the open-ended guarantee of aid to the poor, saving an estimated \$54b. over six years. It sets a lifetime limit of five years of welfare for each family. It requires all able-bodied adults to work after two years of welfare, but has a hardship escape hatch for up to 20 percent of recipients.

Under its terms, the states would take over management responsibilities, receiving federal block grants to run welfare programs, as well as authority to set most of the rules.

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We mourn the loss of our beloved husband, father, grandfather, brother and friend

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Ronni, Benji, Avri, Shai  
Amy and Reuven Della-Torre  
Sagi

Brothers: Sidney and Philip Rick (New York) and countless friends in the United States and Israel

The funeral will take place Saturday night, August 24, 1996, in Jerusalem. For further details please call (02) 678-5458 or (02) 581-7082

With deep sorrow we announce the passing of our beloved mother and grandmother

### HANNAH GREENBAUM

The funeral will take place today, Friday, August 23, 1996, at 1:00 p.m., at Tsomet Morasha cemetery.

Ruthie, Danny, Yael, Yaniv and Yuval Teitel

The Israeli Society of Aerospace Medicine mourns the passing of its longtime member

### Dr. MILTON GORDON

His advice and friendship will be sorely missed

To: Shimon and Efraim Liniel and their families

We share your deep sorrow at the passing of your beloved

### RIVKA

The Management of The Jerusalem Post

# A general's fall from power

### His top aides have been arrested, and relations with Arafat are tense. Steve Rodan profiles General Nasser Yusef, the Palestine Police commander.



Nasser Yusef: According to rumors, he was 'planning some sort of coup.' (Brian Hender)

SIX months ago, Gen. Nasser Yusef arrived at a Tel Aviv hotel to receive a prize for his efforts for peace and cooperation with Israel. He was surrounded by an unlikely crowd of Israeli left-wing activists and Jewish settlers with beards and kippot. One of the participants, watching the warm reception and the hugging of Israelis and Palestinians, whispered to a colleague: "I wonder how this is playing back in Gaza?"

Apparently not very well. The 53-year-old general, who then was promoting dialogue and cooperation with Israel, has today fallen from power. He still has his office in the former Civil Administration headquarters in Gaza City, but his authority as commander of the 16,000-member Palestinian police force is in name only. Moreover, two of his aides have been arrested and held without charges in an unknown location in Gaza by Yasser Arafat's Force 17, Palestinian sources say.

Human rights activists, including those from Amnesty International, say Major Ibrahim Farid Shukairi was grabbed by agents from his office in front of Yusef himself on July 7. Shukairi has been held incommunicado ever since. Also, on July 1, Sgt. Mohammed Ri'fat, the general's driver, disappeared. Both men are said to have been tortured and Palestinian sources say Ri'fat may have been killed. Human rights groups say at least seven detainees have died in PA custody since July 1994, apparently of torture.

Palestinian sources, none of whom agree to be named, now say that both men are being accused of treason and espionage and PA investigators suspect that Yusef is involved. The sources say two attorneys, one of them identified as Sami Mikdad, the other, a senior PLO official from Washington, are also in detention in Gaza. "The word is that these people, with Nasser Yusef, were planning some sort of coup," Bassem Eid, a human rights activist who has taken up the case, says. "Let me stress that these are all just rumors."

Palestinian sources close to Yusef dismiss the assertions. They say the general is a victim of his own success. A university graduate with degrees in history and

Islamic economy, he has built close relations with the Israelis, Americans and other foreigners impressed by his stress on education and democracy. At the same time, he has aroused the jealousy and resentment of other senior PA officials.

At a recent session of the Fatah Central Committee in Cairo, Yusef was criticized for his ties with Jewish settlers. His response was that Palestinians needed to meet a wide spectrum of Israelis, rather than merely those who agree with them. "Nasser Yusef goes up and down," a Palestinian source says. "He has a lot of rivals. He's deeply involved in talks with Hamas because he's one of the few religious men in PA security forces. But because he is an organizational man he made some people around Arafat see him as a threat. They talk to Arafat daily about his meetings with Israeli right-wingers and Hamas."

His meetings, which he has sought not to publicize, have included those with the most nationalist of Jewish settlements in the territories, such as Hebron and Kiryat Arba. "Nasser Yusef is a good friend, with a good soul," says Rabbi Menachem Fruman, a settlement leader from Tekoa, who has spent hours with him at the general's home in Gaza. "The friendship stems from the fact that for several years I have felt that existence of Jewish settlements is a Palestinian interest, and I found somebody in the Palestinian camp - he's not the only one - that believes the same thing." "He is not against Arafat," the rabbi adds. "He is just stepping ahead of the other Palestinians on [the issue of] what will be the quality of the state, not just the establishment of the state itself."

LIKE MOST senior PA officials, Yusef's road with Arafat has been a rocky one. In 1994, after Yusef doubled the salaries of police officers from the PA from \$400, Arafat threatened to fire him and replace him with his deputy, Brig. Gen. Ziad Atrash.

Unlike his colleagues, however, Yusef has usually spoken his mind. In an interview with Israel Radio in 1994, months after he assumed office, Yusef said he knew the identities of the killers of two Israelis. "I have no prob-

lem: arresting them," he said. "However, I have not received any instructions [to do so]."

Palestinian sources say Yusef, along with the heads of other security forces, asked Arafat many times for permission to arrest and even kill Hamas terrorists. The answer was always no. Sources

close to Yusef say despite disagreements with Arafat, the general always sought permission for every step he took. The problem, they recall, is that Arafat would later deny that he gave the green light. "Nasser did not do anything in his life without the permission of Arafat," a source close to the general says. "Indeed, Nasser is afraid of Arafat. But Arafat may have asked him to do something and then embarrassed him. Arafat does this often."

By March, however, Yusef's relations with Arafat underwent serious strains. Sources close to the general say the argument regarding Mohammed Deif, the

Hamas terrorist who is suspected of planning the suicide bus bombings in Israel as well as the kidnapping and death of IDF soldier Nachshon Wachsmann in 1994. One source says when Arafat dismissed Yusef's proposal to arrest Deif, the general offered his resignation. The source says Arafat did not respond.

Since then, the sources say, Yusef's authority has been steadily reduced. More and more of his authority went to Atrash in Gaza, who reports straight to Arafat. In Judea and Samaria, Brig. Gen. Haj Ismail consolidated his power and stopped even coordinating with Yusef. "He is updated with what is

going on," a Palestinian security source says, "but usually after it happens."

At the same time, Yusef's rivals tried to exploit the tensions with Arafat to oust the general from his post. Those tensions increased after the Israeli election and the ascent of the Likud-led government. Yusef, given permission by Arafat, held several meetings with Likud leaders, while Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu refused to meet the PA chief. Palestinian sources say Yusef's rivals found their opportunity last month when PA security services revealed at least one plot to overthrow Arafat.

Mahmoud Abbas, known as Abu Mazen and No. 2 in the PA, says several conspiracies were uncovered but Palestinian security sources say Arafat never felt under real threat.

Still, Arafat's trusted bodyguards decided to act. Force 17 deputy commander Faisal Abu Sharah ordered Yusef's offices raided and Shukairi arrested. Palestinian sources recall Yusef tried to prevent Shukairi's arrest and contact Arafat, who was then abroad.

The general also warned Force 17, Arafat's praetorian guard, that he would expose the corruption of the PA, a threat he never carried out.

To Yusef's rivals, Shukairi was the link between the general and the international community. Fluent in several languages, including Hebrew and English, the major introduced to his commander diplomats, industrialists and politicians from around the world.

YEHUDA Wachsmann was said to have been the last Israeli to have seen Shukairi. He traveled to Gaza last month to visit Yusef and ask him for help in finding the killer of his son, Nachshon, kidnapped and slain in September 1994 by Hamas. Israeli and Palestinian security sources say the gang that killed Nachshon as well as carried out several suicide bus bombings was led by Mohammed Deif.

Wachsmann recalls that Shukairi was the interpreter for the general, who spoke in Arabic. "I had the impression that he [Shukairi] very much wanted to have contact with Jewish people," he says. "He is a Palestinian patriot who wants to see an independent Palestinian state living in peace and cooperation alongside Israel."

Yusef told Wachsmann that he cannot do anything against Deif. Participants at the meeting recall that Shukairi, departing from his translation of the general, added that the PA had warned all of the

security services to leave Deif alone. "He knows where many Hamas people are, including Deif," Wachsmann says. "But he had an order not to hurt him."

Since then, Shukairi and Ri'fat have been held incommunicado. Some Palestinian sources assert that Shukairi has been accused of cooperating with US authorities quietly investigating the possibility of demanding the extradition of those PLO terrorists alleged to have participated in the 1985 abduction of the Italian cruise ship Achille Lauro and the death of US citizen Leon Klinghoffer. US officials confirm that an investigation has begun into Palestinians living in Gaza suspected of being involved in the Achille Lauro affair.

The PA has refused a delegation from Amnesty International that has expressed concern that the two men are being tortured or starved. "Numerous requests for information, including requests by Amnesty International delegates in Gaza, have failed to elicit any official information as to the whereabouts of the two men," an Amnesty communique said last week. "At one time, they were said to be detained in Ramallah. Now they are said to be held in Gaza by Force 17."

New aides have come to replace Shukairi and Ri'fat and Yusef's availability has sharply declined. Meetings with Israelis were cancelled at the last minute, with his aides usually providing the explanation.

Privately, however, Yusef continues to speak out. He has close ties to many in the Fatah Central Committee and its recent meeting predicted serious problems in the rival Palestinian security services. Yesterday, he was scheduled to meet Arafat, who returned from Tunis to discuss what the general feels is a campaign against him. At the same time, he is also preparing to travel to Jordan for an indefinite period.

Some Palestinian security sources predict Yusef will eventually bounce back the way other close aides to Arafat did.

But they are not as certain whether his aides will share the same fate. Irwin Cotler, a human rights attorney and professor at McGill University in Montreal, has offered to represent Shukairi.

But his family has rejected the request, saying the major is in no danger. "Part of the problem," begins Cotler, "is that unlike the former-Yugoslavia, Western governments have not linked here peace and human rights issues."

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# Hapoel Taiba breaks new ground

**Derek Fattal and Ori Lewis discover what motivates the National League's first Arab soccer team**

**I**F SPORT often mirrors life, (and never more so than with soccer, regarded across the world as the "people's game"), then Hapoel Taiba's progress perhaps reflects the mainstreaming of the Arab sector into Israeli society.

The club's present ground, on a hill overlooking this Arab town of 28,000, in the Sharon agricultural belt has been its home for the last 10 years. Sited adjacent to an open rubbish tip, the "stadium" is, in the view of club chairman Abdul Rahman Haj Yihye, "a disgrace to Israeli football and Israeli society."

alongside top clubs like Maccabi Tel Aviv and Betar Jerusalem. In the past few weeks international TV crews have flooded into the town. There is little doubt that the team will make a big impact on the league, even if it is only for political reasons. Simply because they are an Arab side, Israeli police will be especially vigilant wherever Taiba play.

The success of the club mirrors a new confident mood in the town and the Israeli-Arab community generally. Taiba has had its fair share of problems over the years and people are well aware of the

government exacerbates the situation making it harder to plan, build or manage proper civil amenities. Apart from soccer, there is no other outlet for the youth, there is no cinema, no park or other recreational facility to speak of. Soccer is the only game in town - which partly explains the fanatical following for Hapoel Taiba.

**OUTSIDE** the community, it is not uncommon for most Israelis to still consider Taiba a no-go area, and some Jews continue to relate to their fellow-Arab countrymen as being the enemy within. With this sort of image problem, it is not difficult to understand why the taunts and cries of "death to the Arabs" are heard on the terraces at soccer matches involving the club. Two weeks ago, the Taiba fans traveled to Jerusalem's Teddy Stadium where Betar fans taunted them with that same abusive language.

Rami, a transportation contractor and another member of the Haj Yihye clan which numbers thousands in the town, is completely unfazed by such behavior. "It's something that happens in football, it just doesn't bother me," he said. The problem also occurred last season when Taiba was similarly jibed by some Kiryat Shmona supporters at an away game. The following week, Taiba supporters chanted "death to the Jews" when the team played against Maccabi Acre - the incident received significant press coverage.

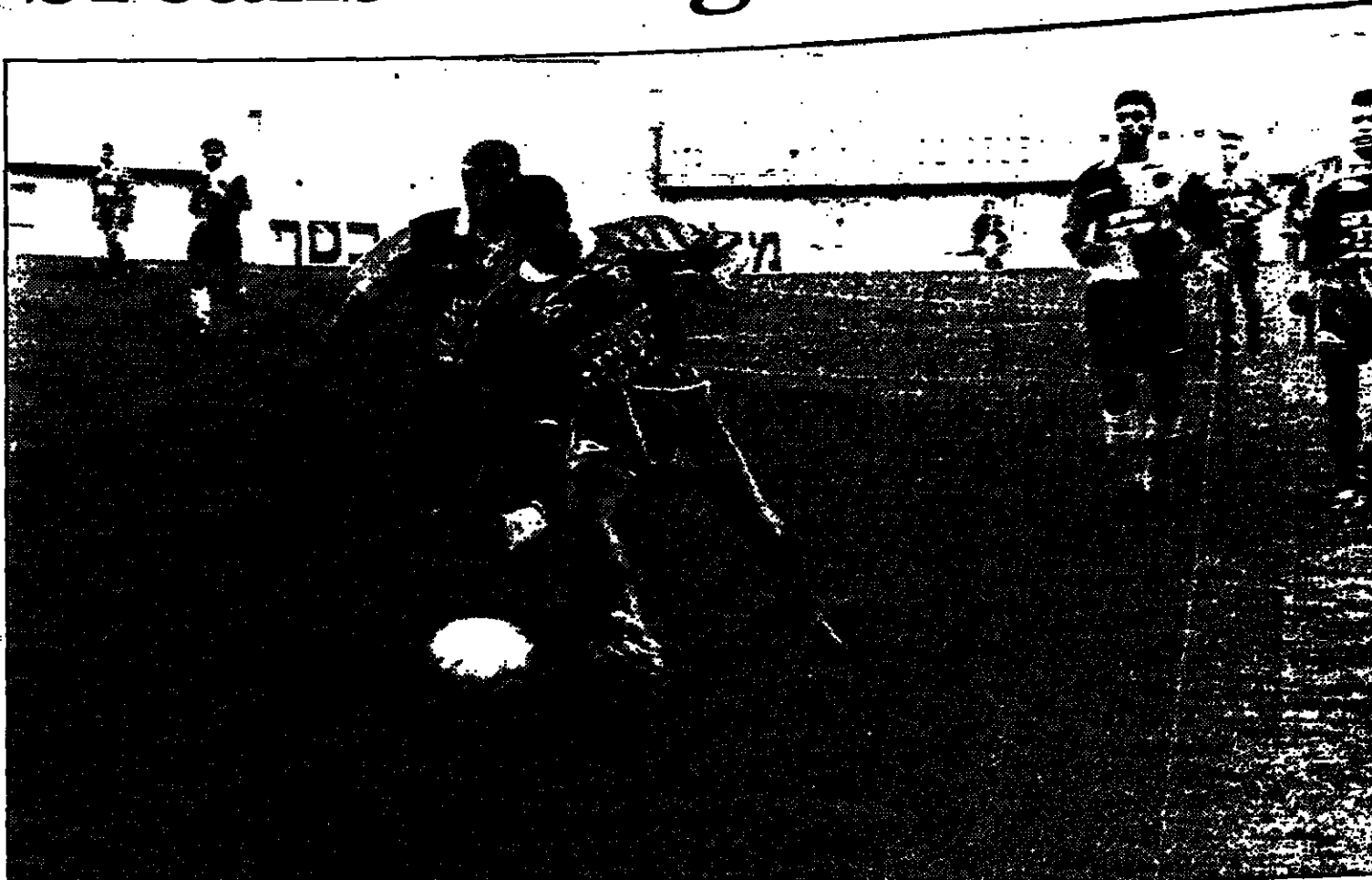
Although the Israel Football Association issued a condemnation against racism two weeks ago, no special steps have been taken to cope with the outbursts. Abdul Rahman feels that the phenomenon is one which will sort itself out with time, and that such behavior - however unpleasant - is best not blown out of context. Another supporter, Karem Haj Yihye, reckons that there will only be a couple of matches at which the taunts might be repeated and violence could erupt, but he is looking forward to the good things he expects the season to bring. "Things changed for us with the peace process. There's been a different atmosphere since then, it has strengthened our feeling as Israelis," says Karem, he also points out that it has made him and his contemporaries more confident as Arabs.

"There was a time in the past when we were working as waiters at hotels and would be embarrassed to speak Arabic in front of Jews. Now I wouldn't think twice about it."

For Rafat Haj Yihye, a high school geography teacher, peace is now a fact. "Once, we identified with the Palestinians, now we have no connection with them. The closure means they never come here, we have no contact with them."

None of the clan follow Palestinian sport, and the Palestinian issue no longer has any bearing on their national attitudes or identity. Likewise, Palestinian acquaintances have no interest in the club. When quizzed about the national side, Karem assertively responds, "Look, we support Israel as much as Hapoel Taiba. I went to all the European [Championship] games over the last couple of years."

Karem then begins bemoaning the national squad's recent pathetic display in Romania earlier and the consensus of opinion is that the chances of qualifying for the World Cup, with the likes of Bulgaria and Russia being the main contenders, are very slim. He



Hapoel Taiba plays with the big boys now, such as in this game against powerhouse Betar Jerusalem.

(Sharon Gershoni)

## The home ground

There's not a single green blade of grass in sight, just bone-dry clumps of growth amidst bare dusty topsoil, stretching from one goalmouth to the other. "It's no longer possible for our first team to even train here, we're now taking them to Wingate," Abdul Rahman Haj Yihye, chairman of Hapoel Taiba soccer club does not reveal a hint of concern as he speaks. His nonchalant attitude suggests that the beginning of the new league season is months away.

In fact Taiba, the first Israeli-Arab side to win promotion to the country's premier division, the National League, faces its opening league match against Ironi Rishon LeZion tomorrow.

As the facilities at the 2,500-capacity municipal ground do not meet the Israel Football Association's minimum standard for National League play, Taiba's home matches will be played in Netanya for the first half of the coming season. "Our board is due to discuss in the next few days, with the town council, whether to refurbish the ground or to build a new stadium at another site," says Haj Yihye who estimates construction costs of around NIS 5 million. The money would undoubtedly be well spent, as the current ground looks, it blends well into the surroundings - the rubbish tip. The dressing rooms make the toilets at Tel Aviv's old bus station look luxurious.

Haj Yihye explains that the pitch was ruined after the water supply failed six days earlier. "It's just one of those things. It wasn't even anyone's fault. The two supply pumps to this area of the town broke down at the same time. I can't make a big fuss about it when people in the neighborhood do not even have drinking water at the moment."

O.L. and D.F.

Nevertheless, Abdul Rahman maintains an almost cocky air of confidence. Since this owner of a carpentry business became treasurer of Hapoel Taiba soccer club on a voluntary basis in 1987, the club has never been relegated - the only way has been up. "When I took over we were facing relegation to the Fourth Division. We needed nine points from our five remaining games, of course, we got them."

Hapoel Taiba, founded in 1961, duly performed the required escape act winning all five games and taking a maximum of 10 points (at that time only two points were awarded for a win as opposed to today's three). At the end of the 1992-93 season the club won promotion to the Second Division. Two years ago its mixed Arab-Jewish squad almost squeezed into the top flight, but lost out in the end-of-season playoffs. Last year the club dominated the Second Division for the whole season, winning its place in the National League weeks before the campaign ended.

Promotion has brought unprecedented media attention to the club. Now a member of the country's sporting elite, its progress is being covered by the Hebrew press,

relative discrimination they have suffered both socially and economically, as a result of the traditional gulf separating Jew and Arab in Israel.

Nevertheless, rather than dwell on the past, the people behind Hapoel Taiba are intent on looking forward to a better future as fully-fledged Israelis.

Raek Yassin, a devout Moslem and member of the club's board comments: "What's past is past. I'm a loyal citizen, and all I and other people who live here ask for is to be treated the same. For me Israel is my country."

In his view, soccer rather than Islam unites the townsfolk, and has brought about a positive change within Taiba. "Four years ago we had a drugs and crime epidemic here. There were dealers on nearly every street corner. Since the club was promoted [to the Second Division], the drug problem has decreased by around 40 percent as our youth have become attached to the club and the game. Hapoel Taiba has become a part of their lives."

Yassin argues that a common problem in towns and villages in the Arab sector is that the vast majority of available land is privately owned. Poor municipal

remembers the days when Zahi Arneli and Rifat Turk played in the national blue and white colors and hopes that there will be another representative from the Arab sector in the national team before too long.

**SUPPORT** for the club is not confined to the town says Abdul Rahman. "The club has become a beacon for the whole Israeli-Arab sector. Arab fans come to games from the Negev and the Galilee. The Israeli-Arab community wants success for us." Abdul Rahman believes that Jews will also become drawn to the club as the season progresses and Taiba's attractive methodical game attracts new supporters.

In Taiba and the surrounding area, the support is particularly keen. Ordinary people regularly donate money to the club through door-to-door collections.

This season the club has an operating budget of NIS 5.3 million which is made up of the usual grants from the IFA, the Sportoto pool, the Hapoel organization and sponsorship and broadcast rights. NIS 1.5 million of the budget comes from the Taiba municipality.

But the club still needs to attract a major sponsor. Abdul Rahman does not feel that there is a multi-millionaire patron in the Arab community who can do for the club what millionaires Rubie Shapir or Ya'acov Shabar have done for soccer in Haifa.

Over the summer, Taiba signed a new coach, Wojtek Lazarek from Poland. Lazarek previously coached Hapoel Kfar Sava several years ago and he has also had experience coaching in Egypt and Saudi Arabia. Two new Jewish players have been contracted, an attacker Sahar Mizrahi from Bnei Yehuda, and goalkeeper Mickey Dahan, who took the opportunity to move back to the National League. Taiba has also signed two foreign players, one a Pole, the other a Romanian.

Despite the problems, the Taiba board is confident that the club can adjust to life in the big time. They are aiming for a place in the top ten and will pay out bonuses to



When Taiba plays, everyone in town gets involved, including Mayor Rafik Haj Yihye (standing).

(Sharon Gershoni)

the squad if the team ends in the top five. Abdul Rahman feels what has happened to the club is the culmination of correct planning over the years and a commitment to playing positive soccer.

Despite the team's Arab background, he feels that it is just another outfit amongst a group of

16. He sees nothing abnormal or strange about an Arab club finally making it into the National League.

Just as Arabs are now an integral part of Israeli society, in his view they are now taking their rightful place in the game.

If the upbeat Taiba fans have

their way, it won't be long before the side is making it's mark further afield than Israel. Karem and his friends predict that within two years upwardly mobile Hapoel Taiba will be representing the country in the European Cup, and standing to attention while *Hatikva* is played.

## Taiba mayor keeps club close to his heart

**H**APOEL Taiba's most famous supporter is the town's mayor, Rafik Haj Yihye, who is the eighth member of the team's management committee.

The charismatic and often controversial mayor can always be found in the thick of the action, and is often on the management bench when the team is playing.

When the team were stranded at Larnaca airport on their return from a training camp in Poland, Rafik took charge of the situation. "I made a couple of phone calls to get things moving and we had planes sent to pick us up," he said after the passengers' ordeal in which the LOT airlines plane made an emergency landing in Cyprus following a bomb scare. After the plane was cleared to continue its journey to Ben Gurion Airport, many passengers, including the whole of the Taiba squad and their mayor, refused to get back on the plane and were left behind

to fend for themselves.

The tall, lean Rafik does not hide his sentiments for the club. And when, in the middle of last season, a match against Hapoel Ramat Gan was stopped in controversial circumstances, Haj Yihye began undressing in front of the TV cameras, saying that those who wanted to see Hapoel Taiba fail in their promotion bid would first have to draw blood from his body.

Haj Yihye's town still has many election posters and stickers on walls and lamp posts, not surprisingly, they do not have any connection with the present government. Pictures of Shimon Peres and green Meretz stickers are the most common.

Rafik was No. 36 on the Labor Knesset list, but failed to win his seat. He was also previously short-listed to become Israel's first-ever Arab ambassador, but his appointment to the post in Finland was never confirmed.

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# The 'ugly Israeli' is a failure of Zionism

IT'S so depressing that I can finally understand an uncle of mine, who confided to me one day, after fifty years in this country: "I should have gone to Dakota and lived with the Red Indians instead."

I'm not referring to the visitors from abroad who, as usual, have been dropping in on me all summer, making hash of my work schedule and causing me to regret that I didn't go abroad before they did. Old friends, school acquaintances, professional colleagues, childhood playmates, second cousins (removed, people who don't know me but have gotten my number from people who do - all coming from somewhere, and on their way to somewhere, and wanting me to make time for them. They're bad enough, but they're not as bad as the stories I've been hearing from them.

...So there we were in a hotel in the Scottish Highlands, really off the beaten track, and when I told the hotel owners we were Jewish, they didn't believe it. "But you're not at all like Israelis," they said. "You're nice."

"...We wanted to rent a van to drive down from Hanoi, six or seven of us. I hope there are no Israelis among you," the Vietnamese who ran the agency said. "If there are, I won't rent to you."

"...It happened in Katmandu. I was waiting for a plane to Delhi. There were some Israelis talking on the street and I tried out what little Hebrew I know on them. Afterwards a Nepali came up to me and said: "You shouldn't talk to those Israeli people." "Why not?" I asked. And he answered, "Because all Israel people are bad."

Even we Israelis agree. Some neighbors of ours have just gotten back from a resort in Egypt, one of those exclusive snorkel-and-car-yourself-sick places on the Red Sea Coast. They couldn't stop telling us what a good time they had. "And the best part of it," said the husband, "was that no other Israelis were there."

Well, you can put that down to snobism or even Jewish self-hatred. And if they don't like us in Scotland, the Scots are Christians and we all know what Christians think of Jews. But the

Nepalese? the Vietnamese? The Japanese, whose border police have routine orders to keep Israelis out of their country? These are peoples living in parts of the world where no one has ever heard of Jews, where there was never the slightest tradition of anti-Semitism.

If they already feel this way about us after a few years of exposure to Israeli tourism, the overwhelmingly discouraging thought occurs to one: Perhaps the antisemites were right all along. Perhaps we Jews are simply an intolerable people and always have been. Perhaps re-establishing a Jewish state after thousands of years, rather than cure us of the traits that have made us such an annoyance to the rest of mankind, has concentrated and heightened these traits even more. Perhaps the whole project is hopeless - because the more of us crowded together in one place, the worse we become.

Yes, I know that we have our redeeming features. We may strike others as being loud, pushy, clannish, arrogant, aggressive, argumentative, nosy, tactless, impolite, inconsiderate, and exploitative, but we are also open, direct, helpful, mutually supportive, enterprising, curious, emotional, spontaneous, frank, intelligent, and caring. "Shall I define an Israeli for you?" a friend of mine once suggested. "An Israeli is someone who will break your leg while trying to get ahead of you in a bus queue, and who will then pick you up and carry you on his back to the hospital." And a young Israeli who spent a year backpacking around India once told me: "I guess it's true that no one there much liked us. We had a reputation for putting ourselves first. But you know, whenever backpackers from other countries got into trouble - English, Americans, French, German, it didn't matter - it was always to us that they turned for help.

We were always the ones who knew all the angles, who weren't afraid, who were willing to try anything. "Go to the Israelis, they're the ones who can get you out of it," was something of a slogan."

It is certainly true that most of the ways in which we Israelis behave towards others are also the ways in which we behave towards ourselves, and that just as there are some people whose best characteristics are glimpsed by outsiders sooner than their worst ones, so with us it is the other way around. Jews have always paid more attention to substance than form. We have even tended to be contemptuous of form as goyish devices for covering up lack of content, and yet it is form that invariably first strikes the eye. Deep down we know that we aren't as bad as we first seem to others. Deep down, too, though, we know that "the ugly Israeli" who always thinks he knows best, who cannot talk without shouting, who cannot buy without haggling, and who is constantly on the lookout for what he can get away with is a reality that does

not make a generally favorable impression. Sometimes I think that our peculiarly martyrological history has a lot to do with it. It has not only made us as a people utterly cynical of the pious phrases of mankind, it has given us a kind of group absolutism to do whatever we think is necessary to advance our own interests, whether these are as broad as those of a nation acting in the international arena, or as narrow as those of a single one of us using his elbows at home or abroad. No one will preach to us; no one will make of us friars. To him who does not take, nothing will be given - this is very much our philosophy of life.

But you cannot expect a Vietnamese or a Nepali to understand all this. "For God's sake," said a summer visitor, "you people have to do something, hand out brochures at the airport, screen movies on etiquette on all flights leaving Israel, make every Israeli wanting to go abroad take a compulsory course in acceptable international behavior. You think the whole world is against you? Just wait until it really is."

## Never say 'Sorry'

MONITORING the news media and pointing out their errors is little more than an exercise in futility. Unless clear libel is involved, extremely rare is the writer, editor or publisher who will admit publicly to having committed a factual error that distorted the significance of an article, and then publish an apology or a correction.

You certainly will not get them to admit that they deliberately perpetrated a distortion - by falsifying or rearranging the facts, or by omitting facts that cast a particular light on the subject.

Almost equally rare is the occasion when radio and television audiences and newspaper and magazine readers will act on a matter the media monitor raises - act to the extent of contacting those responsible to press them for a public correction.

Rarer yet is the occasion when the listener or reader will stop reading a recidivist newspaper or magazine and even writing letter to the publisher saying why, or stop tuning in to a radio or television program and stop donating to the offending "public" network and write to tell them why.

One can only hope that the people fed those errors, lies and distortions also read or hear the corrections and stop relying on the lying sources.

A VIEW FROM NOV  
MOSHE KOHN

to scripture..."

Mohammed's vision of an ascent to Heaven from Jerusalem is not according to any Scripture. It is a later interpretation of the Koran's "Night Journey" sura. Indeed, as cannot be repeated too often, Jerusalem and the Temple Mount, what Moslems call the Haram a-Sharif (the Noble Sanctuary), are never - never - mentioned in the Koran.

Furthermore, for Moslems, Jerusalem - rather, the Dome of the Rock - comes after Mecca and Medina. Christians also have Bethlehem and Nazareth (and 1.1 billion Catholics have Rome, Lourdes, etc.). For Jews Jerusalem is first and foremost, followed by Hebron.

In any case, Jerusalem is not merely the site of three events of equal religious significance to the adherents of those three faiths. It also has been, ever since David made it the capital of the United Kingdom of Israel three millennia ago, the secular center of the sovereign Jewish state, today the State of Israel, the religious and political cynosure of the Jewish people.

The Western Wall is not "the holiest spot of Judaism." That status is belongs solely to the Temple Mount. The Western Wall is only a section of the mount's retaining wall built by Herod when he widened the mount's area with earth-fill. It is "holy" only because the authorities forbid Jews to pray on the Temple Mount.

At the Wall, Mairson seems to have seen only "A sea of men in black suits and white prayer shawls..." Anyone who has been to the Wall knows that the coloration is much more variegated than that.

It is high time, too, for the public to know that the Mea She'arim neighborhood is not merely "an enclave of Hassidic families," and that not everybody who wears a black suit and black hat is a Hassid. Such garb is characteristic of nearly all people identified as haredim, including those of the Lithuanian mitnagdic (anti-Hassidic) tradition, and also Sephardim who attended Hassidic or mitnagdic yeshivot.

As for the events of 1948, as usual in such writing, the Arabs didn't launch a war against Israel with the intention of throttling it at birth. All that happened was that "The Arabs rejected [the UN partition proposal], and... the fighting began..."

Behind the Mask" story opens with a two-page photo captioned: "Bullhorns and razor wire edge a Syrian-held fragment of the Golan Heights, where a family of Druze shout greetings to relatives in Israeli-occupied territory 500 yards away..."

Nowhere is there mention of the fact that visits across that "razor wire" take place, and would take place with even greater ease and frequency if the Syrian leadership could swallow hard, and accept Israel as a human, this-worldly being and the truth about how the relations between our two countries came to be what they are.

But they are encouraged by writers like Theroux to go on basking in their illusions. How do we happen to be in the Golan? For no stated reason we "had begun its occupation in 1967, after defeating Syria in the Six Day War." As usual, that war (like the 1948 war) was not launched or provoked by our neighbors, with the aim of destroying us; it just happened.

And Syrian President Hafez al-Assad is a peace lover. We have the word of none other than the President of Syria's several-score-strong Jewish community, Youssef Jajati.

Theroux asked him how Syria's Jews had fared during the various Arab-Israeli wars throughout this century.

Jajati: "We were safe. But we fared much better after the 'corrective revolution' (the movement that brought Assad to power in 1970 - P.T.)... I thank Presidents Clinton and Assad and everyone who wants peace... I have visited Assad and talked about peace, and I felt his desire for it. He knows Syrians want peace. We want it soon. We want it today! I would like to have peace with Israel this afternoon!"

Peace is his and Assad's for the having, if only Assad would stop fostering and exporting terror, and if he would abandon his demand for Israel's surrender of the entire Golan and "West Bank" on the basis of the fictitious "land for peace formula."

That "formula" does not appear in any of the basic negotiating documents, certainly not in the October 10, 1991 joint US-Russian "Madrid Invitation," which is the basis for Israeli-Syrian negotiations. What is repeated again and again is the 1967 UN Resolution 242, which does not call for Israel's withdrawal to the 1949 armistice lines.

AGAINST THE GRAIN  
HILLEL HALKIN

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SRULIK by DOSH

MARTIN LACKNER of Los Angeles, has sent me a copy of his letter to National Geographic (NG) magazine canceling his subscription of nearly half a century. The last straw, he said, was their "Syria Behind the Mask" article in their July issue, by Peter Theroux, a Long Beach, California free-lance writer and translator of Arabic fiction.

I have read the article: it rads largely like one of those newspaper travelogues paid for by the subject, depicting terror-and-drug-exporting Syria as virtuously developing paradise.

Unfortunately for NG, this whitewash of Syria comes after the mess the magazine made of "The Three Faces of Jerusalem" in its April issue, written by NG editorial-staff member Alan Mairson.

One of the main shortcomings of the latter article is that by a little White Lie, it presents the Jewish, Christian and Moslem affinities and claims to and in Jerusalem as equal: one third to each. For example, Mairson writes:

"The Bible says that Abraham almost sacrificed his son Isaac here... It was here that Jesus drove the money changers from the Temple and here that the Prophet Muhammad ascended to Heaven to meet God, according

to scripture..."

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SHABBAT SHALOM  
SHLOMO RISKIN

Her former husband who sent her away, may not take her again for that is an abomination before God..." (Deut. 24:4)

HOW secure can we, the people of Israel, be, that despite our backsliding, there is always room for repentance? Perhaps our stiff-necked resistance to God and our dalliances with other "isms" will preclude His wanting us back when we are finally ready to return?

One of the most powerful paradigms there is for the relationship between God and the Jewish people is that of marriage. The Song of Songs, extolled by the Sages as the holiest work in the Torah, breathes with sensual verses declaring the love between God and His beloved, the nation of Israel.

Every morning, as we bind the leather straps of our *tfillin* around our arms in preparations for prayer, we encircle the middle fingers of the left hand three times, like three rings, and recite a marriage vow to God. "I will betroth you to me forever, and I will betroth you to me in righteousness, and in judgment... and I will betroth you to me in faithfulness..." (Hosea 2:21-22)

From a mystical point of view, God as husband and the Jewish people as bride, is how the Zohar interprets the events which mark the revelation at Sinai, with Mt. Sinai held over the Israelites as the wedding canopy and the Ten Commandments as the *ketuba*, the marriage contract. And every Sabbath Day, as evidenced by the *Lecha Dodi* (Come My Beloved Bride) prayer-song chanted and danced in the presence of the rising Sabbath moon, is a reenact-

ment of the sacred marriage between God and Israel.

Wherever we turn - the Bible, the Prayer Book, the Festivals - we find the model of our relationship with God as that of bride to groom. But one of the forces threatening to shatter the efficacy of this imagery can be found in this week's portion, *Ki Tetze*, where we read that a man cannot remarry a woman he's divorced if in the meantime she married someone else, that marriage also ending in divorce or widowhood.

True, she can marry, but not a remarriage to her first husband, an act the Torah maintains would be an "...abomination before God..." (Deut. 24:4) It stands to reason that if this is an abomination, what can we say about out-and-out adultery? And indeed, Jewish law declares the adulterous woman to be forbidden both to her husband and to her lover.

In our paradigm of the relationship of Israel to the Divine as a marriage, Israel's pursuit of false gods and idols must be viewed as adulterous betrayals. In accordance with this week's Torah reading, our immoral actions must result in rendering us forbidden to God as an "abomination." How then can we account for the possibility of repentance and forgiveness, the most fundamental theme of our daily *Amida* prayers, of the power of *Yom Kippur*, and of the entire Messianic drama of return and redemption?

This Divine covenant, or eternal guarantee, comes in answer to Abraham's agonizing question of God after he has been promised an heir and the Land of Israel as an everlasting possession. "But how do I know that they will inherit it," asks the patriarch, and Nahmanides interprets Abraham's question as an expression of his fear lest his descendants not be worthy of the land.

The Divine response, His covenant with Abraham, serves to cement the eternity of the relationship; that despite temporary ruptures and alienation-exiles, there will be an ultimate rapprochement and return. We are the people of God's covenant, the beneficiaries of a relationship with the Divine which can never be broken. Hence within our sacred literature and liturgy we find not only the paradigm of God and Israel as Lover to beloved, but also of Parent to child.

The groom-bride relationship bespeaks of passion; the parent-child relationship guarantees eternity. A parent can never divorce a child.

We may well be excited by a God-Israel relationship akin to Groom-bride, replete with passion and equalized with mutuality; but we can always be comforted by a God-Israel relationship akin to Parent-child, secure in the knowledge that despite our immoral backsliding, the God of the Covenant waits with outstretched arms for us to return to an ever-ready embrace. *Shabbat Shalom*

...to his heart

...st Jerusalem

(With thanks to Dr. Aaron Lerner of Ra'anana, co-director of IMRA/Independent Media Review and Analysis.)

PETER THEROUX'S "Syria

PHILISTINE, The Great Deception, by Ramon Bennett

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# Juniors make strong showing

BRIDGE  
MATTHEW GRANOVETTER

East dealer  
Neither side vulnerable

North  
♠K  
♥987  
♦K642  
♣AQ842

West East  
♠QJ9864 ♠75  
♥K6 ♥AJ10432  
♦A10 ♦J95  
♣1076 ♣53

South  
♠A1032  
♥Q5  
♦Q873  
♣KJ9

West North East South  
2♠ 3♠ pass 1♥  
(all pass)

Opening lead: ♠Q

**T**HE Junior and Schools Championships of Europe, which were held at the University of Wales, in Cardiff, last month, were hailed by all the young players as a great success.

Teams were grouped by country. Winner of the Junior event (ages 25 and under), in which 26 countries took part, was Norway, followed by Russia in second place and Denmark third.

The top three teams in this event qualified for the World Junior Championships next summer in Canada. Israel was fourth and might take the place of Russia in the World Championships if the Russian team cannot raise funds for the trip. The Israeli team included Aran Varshavski, Nir Katz, Assaf Amit, Yaniv Zack, Amir Levin and Eran Mermelstein.

In the Schools event (high school division), involving 14 countries, first place went to Germany, with Israel second and Great Britain third.

The Israeli silver medalists were Shiri Faur, Yochai Guisky, Assa Levinger, Nadav Ron, Ran Schneider and Yaniv Wax.

**TODAY'S** deal comes from a match in the Schools Championship between the Netherlands and Russia. The South player was awarded the best play of the championship. The bidding, or in this case the lack of bidding, was key to the success of the final contract.

The main error occurred on the very first call by East, when he passed in first seat. East's failure to

start with a preemptive opening in hearts left his partner in the dark about the heart suit.

East, if he felt daring, might have started with a bid of three hearts or a more prosaic weak two-bid in hearts.

One of the finest definitions of the weak two-bid applies here. It comes from Ira Rubin, a great rubber bridge player in New York and former world champion. "The purpose of a weak two-bid is to get the suit into the bidding before you don't have a chance."

After East's pass, South opened the bidding one diamond and West overcalled two spades. West's preempt created a problem for North, who wanted to show diamond support and force to game. He solved the problem by cuebidding three spades. South now bid three notrump, and this became the final contract.

Perhaps by now the reader has noticed that the defense can take the first six heart tricks against three notrump. But remember, East never showed his hearts! West led the queen of spades, won in dummy by force with the king.

Declarer could count seven top winners, two spades and five clubs, and could envision some diamond tricks after dislodging the ace. However, there was an obvious hole in the heart suit. If declarer attacked diamonds, wouldn't the defenders attack hearts? Niek Brink, sitting South, found a psychological solution to this problem.

In order to discourage the defenders from cashing heart tricks, he decided to attack the suit himself! At trick two, he called for a heart from dummy and, when East played low, South put up the queen.

West, under the impression that declarer had just taken a heart finesse, won the king of hearts and continued spades, hoping his partner held the ten. South won the trick with the ten and was now up to eight tricks.

Another famous saying, attributed to New York's F. Igar Kaplan, is "Where there's eight, there's nine."

Declarer next led a low diamond from his hand, and West, not suspecting that his partner held all the top hearts, failed to take his ace, allowing dummy to win the king. Declarer quickly ran for home; he showed his cards, claiming five club tricks and the ace of spades, to make his contract.

Notice East may have saved the defense. When declarer led a heart at trick two, East should have played the jack, to indicate a strong sequence.



With its tall, graceful stems and bright green leaves, hollyhocks are a most pleasant sight along the roadways. (Leon Cheahin)

## The wild, yet graceful hollyhock flower

NATURE  
D'VORA BEN SHAUL

**T**HERE are quite a number of wildflowers in Israel that are the basic stock from which our domestic garden flowers have been developed. In many cases, the wild relative is as striking as the domestic plant but usually more limited in its range of colors.

Hollyhocks are such an example. There are two kinds in the country, both of which are pink. During the summer we see the half-dried plant with a multitude of soon-to-be scattered seeds. But in the early spring, in fact, while it's still officially winter, we see the real beauty of the plant.

The first is the one that most closely resembles the hollyhocks that is commonly known from a summer flower garden: in Latin it's called *Alcea setosa*, the Bristly Hollyhock known as *hamit zifnit* in Hebrew.

Like all hollyhocks, it is a mem-

ber of the mallow family. With its tall, graceful stems and bright green leaves contrasting with its many flowers, it is a most pleasant sight along the roadways.

The leaves and stems are covered with fine bristles, making the plant unattractive to grazing cattle, and consequently it is not uncommon to see large clumps of these hollyhocks standing in an otherwise closely grazed field.

The plant produces a vast number of seeds that scatter easily, and even though birds, especially finches, find the seeds a treat, there are plenty left for sprouting, which takes place during the winter rains.

But not all are from new seeds, since the plant is a hardy perennial. Although the stems and leaves disappear in summer, the plant comes up anew from its large fleshy roots. The plant grows to its full height before the end of winter and then blooms throughout May and June.

The flowers range from dark to light pink, with an occasional almost white with a pinkish hue. This occurs in areas where the plant is truly wild. In the areas near some settlements, cross-pollination with domesticated hollyhocks - which come in a large array of mauves, purples and even reds - has produced some interesting feral plants in a variety of

shades. The second hollyhock is the Stemless Hollyhock, *Alcea acutis*, called *hamit ain-haperach* in Hebrew. Unlike the tall Bristly Hollyhock, the Stemless Hollyhock has large leaves that lie flat on the ground and flower stems that are very short.

This plant blooms a bit earlier than the tall variety and has usually disappeared by the end of May. Its flowers are deeper in color than the Bristly Hollyhock, pink but almost purplish so.

Hollyhocks grow along most of the Mediterranean coast but seem to be more plentiful in the hilly areas. The Galilee is particularly blessed with this plant, and in some areas the fields can appear quite pink with them.

There are also quite a few in other places, especially around Jerusalem. Someone has also deliberately sown them around the destroyed vehicles that serve as a memorial of the War of Independence along the approach to Jerusalem, and they come up year after year and are always in full bloom for Independence Day.

## Return to sender

CHESS  
NICK KOPALOFF

**O**NE of the most enigmatic arenas of chess activity is perhaps correspondence chess. Many of these games have literally gone on for years. Although sometimes conducted by way of telephone, radio, telegraph and more recently through E-Mail, it is through the post that it has earned its reputation.

According to former World Correspondence Chess Champion Ya'akov Estrin, participation in correspondence tournaments "equips the chess player with the essential skills and habits of independent chess research."

This enables him or her to leisurely analyse each new position and so get a tighter grip on the intricacies within. Games can be played without the nervous tension which so often emanates from face to face confrontation.

The English orientalist Thomas Hyde believed that postal chess dated back to as early as 160, when Venetian and Slavic merchants, while exchanging various goods, also sent chess moves.

The first recorded correspondence game was played between the chess players of the Hague and Breda in 1804. In 1837 the notorious Russian master Petrov played a consultation game against players from St. Petersburg.

In 1828 the Nizam of Hyderabad, one of the richest men in the world at the time, sponsored a correspondence match between Madras and Hyderabad, two cities separated by several hundred kilometers of jungle. Each city was represented by two leading Indian players. The moves were sealed in an envelope inside a silver box and were carried to and forth by an overworked and underpaid messenger elephant.

As bad luck would have it, the hapless Shah Sahib, Hyderabad's number one, died at the critical point of one of the games. His replacement went on to lose both his games.

POSTAL CHESS is a fine alternative for the physically handicapped who cannot attend regular tournaments, and also for hermits who find human company an ordeal. Bobby Fischer could well fit into the second category.

Fischer, Robert Benko, Pal USA Championship, 1963-4  
**Pirc Defence**

Le4 g6 2.d4 Bg7 3.Nc3 d6 4.f4 Nf6 5.Ne3 0-0 6.Bd3 Bg4 7.h3 Bxf3 8.Qxf3 Nc6 9.Be3 e5 10.dxe5 dxe5 11.f5, threatening to construct Benko with g4 and g5 11...gxf5 12.Qxf5, on 12.exf5 Black would have gotten a fair game with 12...e4

12...Nd4 13.Qf2, in his notes to the game Fischer admitted he was tempted to accept the dare with 13.Qxe5! Ng4 14.Qxg7+ Kxg7

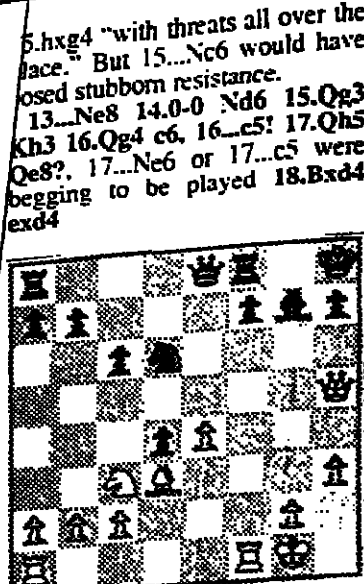


DIAGRAM 1

19.Rf6!!, the killer blow. If the rook is now captured with 19...Bxf6 Benko's f pawn is blocked. He had no doubt expected 19.e5 f5!

19...Kg8 20.e5 h6 21.Ne2!, On 21.Rxd6 Black would have survived to battle out the endgame with 21...Qxe5!!.

Now there is no defence to the threat of Rxd6 1-0 Ya'akov Estrin was the World Correspondence Champion for 14 years between 1975-1989. In his game against Boey from the 1978-81 10th World Correspondence Championship, Estrin (White) to move looks as if he will have to be content with a draw.

Although materially ahead, his Rook will have to be exchanged with Black's forward A pawn as soon as it promotes. But Estrin who later commented "the charm of chess lies in its total unpredictability," defied the obvious and discovered an enchanting winning line. White to play and win.

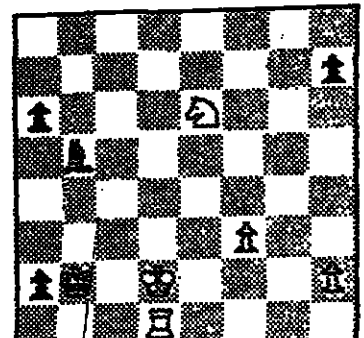


DIAGRAM 2

Solution: 1.Ra1!!; Estrin sacrificed his rook but actually leaves Black's A pawn on the board.

1...Kxa1 2.Kc1! paralyzing and rendering both Black's King and A pawn totally useless 2...Bc4 3.Nd4 a5 4.f4 1-0

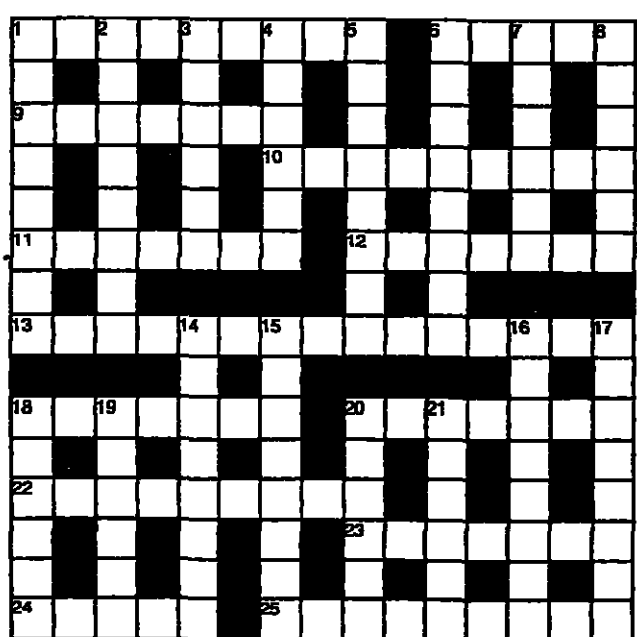
### CRYPTIC CROSSWORD

- ACROSS**
- One providing personal cover for his customers (9)
  - Plant part pales out of recognition (5)
  - Drive into rickety cart, an old vehicle (7)
  - Removing a burden? (9)
  - Coming from German river, damaged her shin (7)
  - He was killed stone dead! (7)
  - Still suffocating because of it? (3,1,6,2,3)
  - Stop being watertight (7)

- Stage show featuring malicious woman going round undressed (7)
- Strange fellow included patient chap who does casual work (3-6)
- A sombre, angry man (7)
- Chopper? (5)
- A girl on the shelf returning a bloomer (9)

**DOWN**

- Sought by police at the double? (2,3,3)
- Religious wing? (8)
- Trendy reporter, before one, had nightmares (6)
- Songster has throat trouble (6)



- Danger signal seen entering this district of the city? (3-5)
- Lagers overturned before ten, it appears, in the harem (8)
- Boy in a film (6)
- The extent of the swimming-pool perhaps (6)
- Bowman has port! (4,4)
- Almost transitory insect (8)
- A flier with Bond's prefix designed something to give a lift (8)
- Having no pity, hurls out of control on Sunday (8)
- Backwater near Windsor? (6)
- A new doctor's in-what's his name? (6)
- Question the lady's ability in the country (6)
- Excited, having champagne? (6)

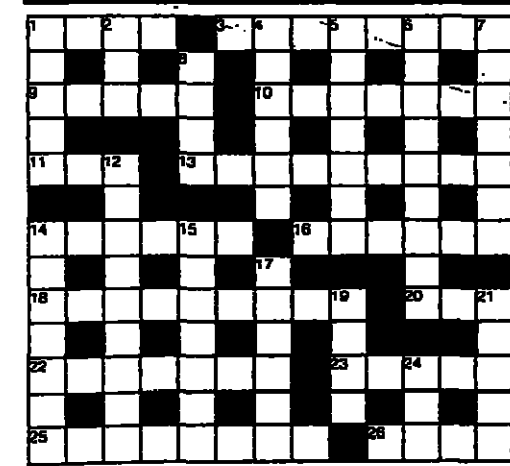
### SOLUTIONS

SHAMELESS GUP  
SIGNATURE ASST  
FIVE A MINUTE  
RESONANCE DUVN  
RAN LE DIRECT  
SCRAMY ORA  
TROMELS INSPECT  
A N C PHIE  
RATIONS  
SAV ASSESSERS  
OLIVER T E R O  
A N R ANIPESHO  
REPER G S A O  
D R D STATEMENT

**Yesterday's Quick Solution**  
ACROSS: 1 Threw, 4 Traffic, 8 Nonstop, 9 Torso, 15 Abster, 11 Narrative, 13 Edge, 15 Divide, 17 Ordinal, 20 Exam, 22 Forbade, 24 Plain, 26 Alibi, 27 Outrage, 28 Eatrest, 29 Dwell.

DOWN: 1 Tyrwald, 2 Ranch, 3 Watered, 4 Taping, 5 Aston, 6 Forsake, 7 Close, 15 Aeon, 14 Deed, 16 Verdict, 18 Reputed, 19 Leasant, 21 Secret, 23 Frame, 25 Alive, 26 Adage.

### QUICK CROSSWORD



- ACROSS**
- Overline (4)
  - Grieving (8)
  - Prize-fighter (5)
  - Allspice (7)
  - Ship's record (3)
  - Pragmatic (9)
  - Thin (6)
  - Pervour (6)
  - Repeat quickly from memory (6,3)
  - Stitch (3)
  - Appearing (7)
  - Walked into water (5)
  - Guaranteeing (8)
  - Be aware of (4)
- DOWN**
- Defamation (5)
  - Southern American (abbrev) (3)
  - Parentless child (6)
  - More distant (7)
  - Harmless (9)
  - Horse-drawn cab (7)
  - Cover (4)
  - Innocent (9)
  - Anticipate (7)
  - Military man (7)
  - Oppugn (anag) (3-3)
  - Beige (4)
  - Relict (5)
  - Row (3)

## Together, we can make a better world

**FUNDS**  
**BEVERLEE BLACK**

**T**HE Forsake Me Not Fund, following recommendations by the Labor and Social Affairs Ministry, has provided basic necessities for elderly people in need. Dental care was high on our list of priorities. In many cases, we paid for eye glasses, hearing aids, medical treatment and operations.

The Toy Fund gave over 20,000 children, in foster care and in institutions, toys and games for Hanukka. We supplied community centers in deprived neighborhoods with sports and physical-fitness equipment.

The Welcome Home Fund has

been concentrating efforts on raising funds to provide scholarships for education or technical training for new immigrants and young Israelis completing army service. This year we gave NIS 90,000 to students at Hebrew University, the Movement for Fighting Poverty in Israel and just recently, to needy students studying at the Open University.

Please help us to continue this important work. Those in need are counting on you. Send your checks to: The Jerusalem Post Funds, POB 81, Jerusalem 91000.

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OMAS	WATERMAN	

**FORSAKE ME NOT**

NIS-500 in memory of my mother, Miriam Lurie, of Bournemouth, England, who died a year ago, aged 94. Rita Wertheim, Kibbutz Turat Zvi, Anon., Herzliya.	NIS-360 in honor of Mrs. Wisenthal's birthday.
NIS-250 Yonatan and Lori Rappoport Sela.	NIS-106 Anon., J'm.
NIS-100 in honor of Linda and Lawrence Laing's 31st anniversary.	Yehezkel Laing, Ma'alot. In honor of our cousin Rose Walk's 99th birthday. Issa and Ahuva Nathan, Deganai Alef. In honor of our grandchildren Shirley and Jack Bitman, Ashdod.
NIS-50 in memory of Yettie and Julius Wiseman, Regina Wiseman, BeerSheva. In memory of my dear ones Sylvia Ark, J'm.	\$1000 The Biler Foundation, Lps Angeles, CA.
\$200 David Scharf, Westlake Village, CA.	\$100 in memory of my beloved sister and brother, Claire Meir and Ben Yifry Murray Yuffly, Windsor, Canada. In honor of our grandchildren Diane and Simon Znamon, Lincolnwood, IL.
\$50 Reuben Cohen, Boise, ID.	\$25 in honor of Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu Bill Yeglin, Kes Moines, IA. Grant Newton, Sylvia, NC.
\$20 in memory of my uncle, Daniel Andrade Samuel Andrade, Caracas, Venezuela. Roy Asper, Winnipeg, Canada.	\$18 in honor of David Bar Ilan Noghah and Bruce Revez, Cedar Grove, NJ, Anon., Rep. of Panama.
\$100 in honor of David Bar Ilan Noghah and Bruce Revez, Cedar Grove, NJ, Anon., Rep. of Panama.	\$165 in honor of the 50th wedding anniversary of Rabbi Stanley and Marion Wolf from Dennis and Binky Wolf (S20), Eddie and Ruth Wolf (S20), Barbara and Arthur Harris (S50), Frieda and David Graham (S50) and Amie Kishony (S25).
Can.\$130 in honor of Dr. A. Ages, teacher of our Shabbat morning Shizur.	\$100 J. V. Anderson, Tasmania, Australia.

### TOY FUND

NIS500 Anon., Herzliya.  
NIS200 A birthday gift to Mayan Gordon from her great-grandparents, which she would like to donate so that a child less fortunate than herself can also have a good time at summer camp. Anon.  
NIS150 Menachem and Chaya Ben Haim, J'm.  
NIS100 Anon., J'm.  
NIS50 in memory of my mother, June Richardson Mullen K. Parker, Kfar Hess, Anon., Tel Aviv. In honor of the Bar Mitzvah of Ari Weitz Regina Wiseman, BeerSheva. In memory of my dear ones Sylvia Ark, J'm.  
\$100 in honor of our grandchildren Diane and Simon Znamon, Lincolnwood, IL.  
\$50 in honor of the birth of Sarah Danilic to Richard and Ellen Calmos Charles and Anna Treter, Dedham, MA.  
\$20 Roy Asper, Winnipeg, Canada.  
\$18 in honor of David Bar Ilan Noghah and Bruce Revez, Cedar Grove, NJ, Anon., Rep. of Panama.  
Can\$ 125 in honor of Dr. A. Ages, teacher of our Shabbat morning Shizur.

New Donations	Progress Totals
NIS 1,641.12	NIS 88,300.60
\$206	\$22,317.20

**WELCOME HOME FUND**

NIS200 Yonatan Silver, J'm.	NIS100 Anon., J'm.
NIS50 in honor of Mr. and Mrs. Morris Weitz, Regina Wiseman, BeerSheva. In memory of my dear ones Sylvia Ark, J'm.	\$100 in honor of our grandchildren Diane and Simon Znamon, Lincolnwood, IL. In remembrance of Rabbi John Zuker of Temple Beth Shalom, San Leandro, CA Anon.
\$20 Roy Asper, Winnipeg, Canada.	\$18 Anon., Rep. of Panama. In honor of David Bar Ilan, Noghah and Bruce Revez, Cedar Grove, NJ.
\$12 Anon., Benton, CA.	Can\$125 in honor of Dr. A. Ages, teacher of our Shabbat morning Shizur.
DM80 Esther Ludwig-Kupfrian, Germany.	

New Donations	Progress Totals
NIS 3,482.52	NIS 252,647.31
\$1,656	\$27,978.71

(other currencies converted into shekels)

האזנה מן הלב







# Peace process advances — on the David Levy track

REPORTS that the government isn't making any progress on the peace front are simply not true.

This week Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu proved he could engage in serious peace talks with Foreign Ministry David Levy. After a two-hour lunch the two protagonists emerged smiling and indicating full stomachs and full agreement.

Netanyahu's negotiating tactic was elegant in its simplicity. He divined that Levy's was mostly an ego problem and if he tossed a few crumbs at it, the crisis would go away. Levy, on the other hand, remains convinced that Netanyahu is a greenhorn prime minister who first makes mistakes and then scurries around trying to mend them. A little pressure from his "friends" merely assists the mending.

But more neutral observers in parliamentary circles say Netanyahu too has an ego problem and the thing that riled him most this week were reports that Labor chairman Shimon Peres was going to Morocco to visit King Hassan.

Netanyahu dearly wants to visit King Hassan. He tried to imitate the late Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin with a dramatic landing in Morocco on his way back from his recent meeting with Bill Clinton in Washington. But Hassan was having none of it and rebuffed the Israeli entourage.

Reports from Rabat at the time had it that Hassan did not like the rather strident statements Netanyahu had made in Washington, in particular the remarks about Arab states in the region getting their democracy act together. Hence Peres' apparent continuing ease of access to the royal palace was one more prod at a tender prime ministerial spot and Netanyahu flared up, accusing Peres of interfering in the peace process and "throwing spanners in the wheels of negotiation."

"When I was leader of the opposition," Netanyahu added, "I never thought I could conduct diplomacy or went to any Arab leader or other statesman."

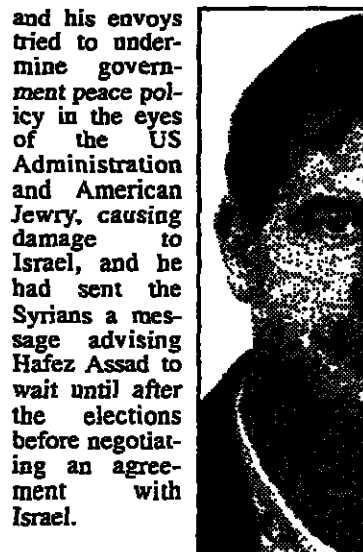
To which Peres retorted that without Labor the peace process wouldn't even have wheels. "The previous government provided the wheels. It is now we see the spanners in them," he said.

He advised the prime minister to equip himself with a longer memory and more accuracy of utterance. Labor MKs gleefully chimed in to remind Netanyahu that he had indeed visited "an Arab leader," King Hussein. Furthermore, they added, he

THE WEEK THAT WAS  
MICHAEL YUDELMAN



PM Netanyahu isn't too pleased ex-premier Peres may soon visit Morocco's King Hassan (above left); Rabbi Schach said he's against Shabbat gatherings on Rehov Bar-Ilan; MK Ofer Pines's protest of overspending for the PM's home was struck down.

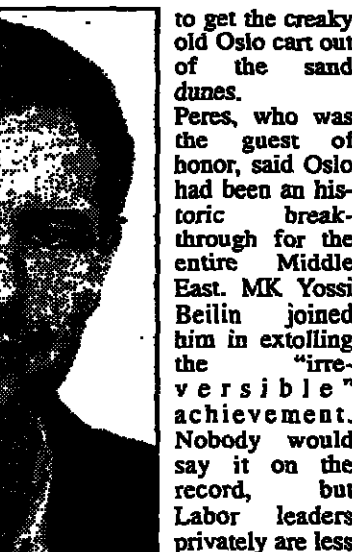


AH, NOSTALGIA

Did anyone mention peace process? In the words of old Maurice Chevalier standard: "Ah yes, I remember it well."

The Israeli, Palestinian and Norwegian "parents" of the Oslo agreements this week held a nostalgic reunion on the shore of the Kinneret to mark the third anniversary of the signing of the then secret agreements.

Only three years? Those old days of the secret contacts and startling news breaks already seem like ancient history from dusty schoolbooks. The government ignored the occasion and sent no representatives. Pity, said a Knesset peace supporter, Netanyahu and his people might have picked up some tips on how



to get the creaky old Oslo cart out of the sand dunes. Peres, who was the guest of honor, said Oslo had been an historic breakthrough for the entire Middle East. MK Yossi Beilin joined him in extolling the "irreversible" achievement. Nobody would say it on the record, but Labor leaders privately are less than confident that "irreversible" is the most solid adjective to put before the current "peace process."

### CONQUERING HERO

The big question this weekend is whether there will be another demonstration of haredim on Rehov Bar-Ilan Saturday night after haredi leaders promised to call them off. Degel Hatorah leader Rabbi Eliezer Schach said he opposed the Shabbat gatherings on Rehov Bar-Ilan. Ha'aretz reported Schach issuing a surprising blast against those who argue the street should be closed because most of its residents are religious. "The majority argument must not be used, because the majority of the state is secular,"

he said. "If things went according to the majority, then Israel would be a secular state."

At last Saturday's demo, the police were doing quite a good job maintaining order while keeping the street open to traffic when, surprise surprise, who should sweep onto the scene in his limo but Internal Security Minister Avigdor Kahalani.

How nice of him to support his hard working police boys in blue. And, by actually driving there, he must be making a firm statement in support of our fine Supreme Court after it ruled that the road must be kept open.

No such luck. Sporting a trendy short-sleeved black T-shirt and black kippa ensemble, the minister wowed the haredi crowds who burst enthusiastically into the street to surround him. No, they didn't seem to mind at all that their hero was breaking Shabbat by driving there.

Police stood by helplessly as Kahalani was enthusiastically escorted into Or Hatzafon yeshiva, the haredi bastion from which the weekend attacks and stonethrowing at police were launched. The fans shouted to Kahalani "we love you and we're counting on you to close the street."

At the police for whom the minister is responsible they shouted "Nazis" and "Amit, go home, resign," for the benefit of Jerusalem Police commander Arye Amit. Encouraged by the minister's obvious support, the haredim then swooped on journalists covering the event, lashing out with blows, screams and threats.

The minister achieved what the demonstrations had failed to achieve he stirred a commotion that closed the street for an hour. Finally Kahalani emerged unscathed, and said he had been greeted with songs and blessings. "It was risky going in there," the intrepid hero recounted. "But I've been through more dangerous battles in the Beka Valley [and] in the Golan." As was widely reported in the print and television media, the haredim around him yelled: "We want to be zealous, we want a Khomeini regime here."

After Kahalani finally swept away in his car, the haredim remembered their obligation to preserve Shabbat peace. So they started yelling "Death to secular Jews, death to left wingers."

Is it any wonder, asked parliamentarians, their heads shaking in disbelief, that we have to beef up security around the homes of the state's Supreme Court judges. Their lives have been anonymously threatened since they ruled on the road.

### SHOW MUST GO ON

The Knesset Finance Committee this week approved NIS 150,000 to rent and renovate an apartment for the prime minister and his family. Until the residence is ready, in a mere six months time, another apartment was rented for the Netanyahu (\$4,000 a month), and one for the security guards (\$800 a month).

Labor MK Ofer Pines's protest that this is an unnecessary waste of public funds in a time of cutbacks and budget slashing was overruled. So was the suggestion that the prime minister should rent a more modest luxury apartment.

But a planned project for fixing and improving several "red roads" accident black spots wreaking a toll of human lives was slashed out of existence by the finance ministry. "Budget cuts!" The Public Works Department also said it would have to cancel construction on central road projects — although not the Judea and Samaria bypass roads.

### Correction

Wednesday's story titled "A chef's work is never done" contained a misleading statement. The affected sentence should have read: "Basson was not the only one who seemingly failed Clean-up 101 in cooking school." We apologize for the error.



TA Hilton Hotel's Japanese hostess Yayoi Kitamura presents Mikhail Baryshnikov with a bouquet of flowers during the dancer's visit here this week.

# Leaders under the sign of Leo

THERE'S SOMETHING to be said for astrology. Anyone who doubted that the attributes of Leo the Lion include leadership and assertiveness should take a look at some of the people who celebrated their birthdays this past week — Labor chairman and former prime minister Shimon Peres, Palestinian Authority head Yasser Arafat and US President Bill Clinton who are 73, 67 and 50 respectively. Also born under the sign of Leo is Cuban President Fidel Castro, who recently turned 70. The late prime minister Menachem Begin was also a Leo.

SINCE A week prior to his actual birthday, Peres has been feted with a series of surprise parties — a regular occurrence for him at this time of the year. But since other things do coincide with his birthday, he can never quite be sure whether the party to which he has been invited is for him or for someone else. That's what happened last Friday when he was invited to Tel Aviv's Rectal Halls for what was ostensibly a farewell for his long time political adviser Yoram Marciano.

As it happened, it was yet another Peres birthday bash attended by familiar faces on the celebrity circuit including political cronies, entertainment stars, captains of industry and senior security personnel such as Mossad chief Danny Yatom and General Security Services head Ami Ayalon whose predecessors attended previous birthday parties for Peres and other luminaries, but whose names could not be published.

Also present was National Infrastructure Minister Ariel Sharon who came fashionably late and whose arrival generated a wave of jocular speculation about a national unity government. The truth of the matter is that Sharon and Peres, despite their political differences, have been friends for the best part of 40 years.

The giant birthday cake, though not quite as spectacular as that produced by American pastry chefs for Bill Clinton, was not without its symbolism. Because it was for Peres, it was also a "peace cake," replete with dove.

THE PAST has come to haunt Transport Minister Yitzhak Levy in more ways than one. Caught speeding in his pre-ministerial days while still just an MK, Levy clocked up as much as 120 k.p.h. and will now have to undergo a special preventative course to curb his propensity for reckless driving. Severe penalties for this offence were introduced by his predecessor Yisrael Kessar.

THIRD TIME lucky. His friends are hoping singer/composer/conductor/musician Shlomo Gronich, has struck a permanently harmonious note. Gronich, 47, this week tied the knot for the third time when he wed harmonica player Michal Adler, 24. Among the guests was Shimon Peres, who earlier this month also attended the wedding of rock singer Aviv Geffen who reciprocated at the Peres surprise party.

GRAPEVINE  
GREER FAY CASHMAN



Theater director Yossi Alfi has lined up 300 story tellers for the Third Holon Story Telling Festival in October. (Yoram Malovany)

WHILE A committee headed by Paul Volker, former chairman of the US Federal Reserve Bank is investigating the fate of monies and other assets deposited in Swiss banks by Jews who may have perished in the Holocaust, prize-winning journalist Richard Z. Chesoff, is completing what is likely to be a best-selling book under the working title of "Holocaust Assets."

A senior correspondent for US News and World Report, Chesoff has accessed thousands of previously unseen documents and his research has taken him across three continents. Newly unearthed evidence, he says, indicates that major chunks of Jewish assets are still in Swiss banks, but other parts of looted properties and monies are hidden in various European countries and in the US. The book to be published by Doubleday in early 1998 tells of specific families whose fortunes and properties were stolen.

EVERYONE LOVES a good story and no one more so than Yossi Alfi who has organized numerous story telling marathons around the country. For the Third Holon Story Telling Festival scheduled for October 2-5, Alfi has lined up 300 story tellers including film, theater, TV and radio personalities, spies, sexologists, ex-cons, people who've had contact with visitors from outer space, secularists who've become religious and religious people who've become secular. The latter include television celebrities Israel Segal, Elazar Sturm and Yigal Goren who is the nephew of the late Chief Rabbi Shlomo Goren.

Alfi has also organized a special session of Jerusalem stories featuring Israel's 5th president Yitzhak Navon, entertainers Haim Banai and Jacques Cohen, journalist and author Dov Gincovchovsky and Ruby Rivlin, who is waiting for Eliahu Ben Elissar ambassador designate to the US to resign from the Knesset so that he can move into his Knesset seat. Ben Elissar, whose

paperwork for Washington has yet to be completed, has made it clear that he has no intention of resigning until he gets on the plane

"IT'S THE only parliament in the world that was scorned," said Rabbi Berel Wein head of the Monsey New York Beit Torah Congregation and Sha'arei Torah Yeshiva. Wein who has been Scholar in Residence for the Israel Council of Young Israel's Torah Education Summer Series, was referring to the Knesset edifice in the context of the many gifts bestowed on Israel by members of the Rothschild family. And in a more up-to-date comment on how situations can reverse themselves, Wein remarked that former Prisoners of Zion Natan Sharan and Yuli Edelstein "are government ministers and Gorbachev hasn't got a job."

EVERYONE AT the Tel Aviv Hilton was understandably excited when Mikhail Baryshnikov took up residence at the hotel's presidential suite, which on election night was occupied by Binyamin and Sara Netanyahu. But the most excited of all was the hotel's Japanese hostess, Yayoi Kitamura, a keen ballet fan and a great admirer of Baryshnikov, who could not believe that she was actually meeting him face to face in Israel of all places.

AND TALKING of the Netanyahu, Time Magazine featured them in its current edition in the context of government leaders whose in-flight romances led to marriage. Others in the partial list include former Australian Prime Minister Paul Keating who wooed his wife Annita a former Aitallia stewardess, while their feet were firmly off the ground. Steingrimur Hermannsson former Prime Minister of Iceland had his first encounter with his wife Edda on board an Icelandic flight. The Sultan of Brunei took as his second wife a Royal Brunei Airlines hostess named Mariam and the late Greek Prime Minister Andreas Papandreu winged his way with Dimitra, the Olympic Airlines hostess whom he later married. Sara Netanyahu was an El Al hostess when she met the prime-minister-to-be.

THE CANADIAN friends of Jerusalem Elwyn long ago discovered the truth in the maxim that the way to a man's (or woman's) heart is through the stomach. A champagne luncheon, begun some years ago by 12 couples has evolved into a popular social event. Toronto's famed Scaramouche Restaurant, which can hold only 100, had to turn people away. Part of the fun of an Elwyn lunch is that the guests prepare the meal together with chef Kevin McKeachie. Israeli consular officials, who were invited by CFJE president Dorothy Weisner will come with some intriguing culinary secrets. Elwyn provides special education and job training for children and adults with developmental disabilities.

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The Jerusalem supplement appearing with the Friday edition of The Jerusalem Post

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הלאה מן האל



# BUSINESS & FINANCE

Friday, August 23, 1996

15

## Construction of apartments down 36% in first half of year

DAVID HARRIS

THE number of apartments built in the first half of the year was down 36 percent from the same period last year to 23,440, 11% lower than the second half of 1995, the Central Bureau of Statistics reported yesterday. The bulk of the slowdown took place in the public sector.

In the first half of this year, 8,100 public sector apartments were constructed, a 56% drop compared to the equivalent 1995 period. In the second quarter that figure increased 22% to 4,450, but that was still down 38% compared to the same quarter in 1995.

In terms of building start-ups, the public sector accounted for 35% in the first six months, compared to 50% in the same period last year. In the private sector 15,340

homes were built, down 15%. In the second quarter 6,920 were built, down 18% from the first quarter and 23% fewer than the corresponding period last year.

The overall amount of land used for construction start-ups also declined in the first half to 4.8 million square meters, down from 5.9 million sq. m. in the second half of 1995, and 6.5 million sq. m. in the first six months of that year.

The number of apartments completed reached 23,070 in the first half of 1996, 45% more than in the same period last year.

At the end of June, 92,000 apartments were under construction, almost the same as at the end of March. Of the 92,000, 43% were in the public sector.

## ITT Sheraton becomes partner in Koor Hotels

HAIM SHAPIRO

IN a major development in the local tourism industry, ITT Sheraton International yesterday took over 50 percent of the ownership of Koor Hotels and Resorts, which presently manages the Paradise hotel chain.

Neither ITT Sheraton nor Koor would specify what the former gave the latter in return for the stake.

The agreement was announced at a ceremony in which Robert Cotter, president of Sheraton Europe, and Benny Gaon, director of the Koor conglomerate, signed a memorandum of understanding.

The new jointly owned company is to be known as Sheraton Israel, and is to be headed by Ruffy Weiner, director of Koor Hotel and Resorts, who had previously been general manager of the Jerusalem Sheraton Plaza Hotel.

On January 1, four of the five Paradise properties, including two hotels in Eilat and one each in Jerusalem and Tiberias, are to become part of Sheraton ITT's new Four Points chain, which will be a network of moderately-priced hotels.

When it is completed, the Herod's Hotel in Eilat, for which Koor has a management agreement, is to become a Sheraton hotel.

There are presently two Sheraton hotels here, in Tel Aviv and Jerusalem.

According to Cotter, the hotels are to be the first Four Points hotels in the Europe-Middle East area. Cotter said he is excited to be associated with "the number one company in Israel."

He noted that Sheraton was the first international hotel chain to come to Israel when it arrived 25 years ago.

He also promised that the inter-



Benny Gaon (left), director of the Koor conglomerate, and Robert Cotter, Sheraton Europe president, yesterday sign a deal giving ITT-Sheraton a 50 percent stake in Koor Hotels.

national company would back its commitment with further investments, although he could not say when such investments would be made or with what magnitude.

Gaon noted that it has been Koor's policy over the past four years to join forces with leading international companies.

He said that Koor had set up Koor Hotels and Resorts two years ago to show its seriousness about entering the field of tourism and to justify a linkage with an international company like Sheraton.

So far, Koor had about \$100 million invested in tourism, he said. Gaon said that the agreement symbolized Sheraton ITT's confidence in the Israeli economy and in Koor.

Gaon also expressed the hope that the link with ITT Sheraton would forge a connection between Koor and ITT Sheraton's parent company, ITT, especially in the capital market.

One of the main attractions of Sheraton, Cotter said, was its reservations system, which he described as the most far-reaching in the world.

Another advantage, he said, was that the company would be able to bring in personnel from abroad and to send employees elsewhere for periods of three or four years. He also made it clear that Sheraton intended to have additional hotels in Israel.

"It is our intention to have more hotels than anyone else, and more hotels in Israel," Cotter said.

### BITS & BYTES JENNIFER FRIEDLIN

Accent releases new Hebrew software: Accent Software Systems (Kivun) has announced the release of the Hebrew version of Corel Draw 6.

The graphics program allows users to create and change pictures without cutting and pasting and to pass from Hebrew to other languages.

Computer opens new school: Computer, the Herzliya-based computer center, has established a new school for the study of computers. In the first stage, the school will offer four computer classes. For information, call Ron Barak, (09) 550999.

Kateronics joins with US firm to make electronic car: Kateronics, a Herzliya-based company that is part of the Rada (Nasdaq) group, has joined with the Idaho-based company AMI to manufacture electronic cars.

Optimedia will produce CD-Rom for Elsevier: British publishing house Elsevier has selected Optimedia to produce a CD-Rom that will include 15 books on seismology. The agreement is reportedly worth NIS 260,000.

## Construction begins on power plant in Ashkelon

DAVID HARRIS

THE Israel Electric Corporation began work yesterday on its \$1.6 billion coal-fired power station just south of Ashkelon.

Named after the founder of Israel's original electric corporation, Rutenberg, the station will comprise two units, each capable of generating 550 megawatts of electricity.

The first of the generators is expected to be operational by the winter of 2000.

"This is the technological last word; electricity that will be produced comparatively cheaply and a station that is almost totally free of environmental pollution," Electric Corp. Chairman Gad Ya'acobi said.

"The Electric Corp. is demanding that the infrastructure development of the electricity infrastruc-

ture market in Israel become the fastest in the entire western world," managing director Rafi Peled said.

The existing Rutenberg station has been the cause of controversy between the Electric Corp. and State Comptroller Miriam Ben-Porat.

The original twin 550 MW-unit power plant was to be operational by 1986.

But only one unit was put into operation in August 1990 and the second unit became operational in November 1991.

Last year's State Comptroller's report criticized both the Electric Corp. for not meeting its deadlines, as well as the Electric Corp.'s board of directors for not moving the project along when it became stalled.

## Leumi: Insurance spin-off to proceed as planned

GALIT LIPKIS BECK

BANK Leumi will spin off Leumi Insurance Holdings from the Africa Israel holding company in an attempt to complete its transaction with Italy's Assicurazioni Generali, the bank said in an announcement to the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange yesterday.

Meanwhile, the Wertheimer-Zisser consortium has withdrawn its bid to participate in the tender to purchase Bank Leumi's 25 percent surplus holding in Africa Israel. The consortium has agreed not to participate in the tender, directly or indirectly, via another investor.

The withdrawal follows Bank Leumi's spin-off decision. Generali has offered to purchase 40% of Leumi Insurance at a value of \$1 billion, but completion of the transaction remains subject to the Treasury's approval of the bank's request for a six-month extension of the December 31 deadline for selling its surplus non-banking assets.

If Bank Leumi does not receive the extension, the Generali deal is likely to be cancelled and the bank will have to sell Africa Israel as one unit. In this case, Bank Leumi said it "intends to enter negotiations with one of the bidders that took part in the tender for Africa Israel."

The Wertheimer-Zisser group had hoped Africa Israel general manager Shlomo Grofman could prevent the spin-off, but following his resignation Wednesday they decided there is no point in bidding for Africa Israel.

Bank Leumi said the bids it received in the tender for the purchase of all of Africa Israel are lower than it had expected, and lower than Generali's.

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Details at all Leumi Mortgage Bank representative offices at Bank Leumi branches.

\*A year from making the mortgage at the interest rate that will prevail at Leumi Mortgage Bank at that time for the relevant period less 0.25%.

The Bank is entitled to change or withdraw the terms of the plan at any time.

### בנק לאומי למשכנתאות בע"מ

## Zim's first-half net income up 20%

COMPANY RESULTS  
GALIT LIPKIS BECK  
and DAVID HARRIS

ZIM Israel Navigation Co. Ltd., yesterday reported semi-annual net income of \$4.2 million, up 20 percent from \$3.5m. in the corresponding period last year.

The company's total net income through June stood at \$700.3m., compared to \$702.5m. last June.

Operating expenses and related services rose to \$626.2m. in the first six months, an increase of \$6.7m., this the company says was because of the increase in the quantity of cargo carried.

The number of containers carried increased by 5% to 449,900. Despite that increase, income turnover is lower by 0.3%, because of an ongoing erosion of freight rate levels in most trade areas. The erosion is the result of "the growing gap between supply and demand of tonnage, both in Israeli and international trade," according to a company statement.

However, with world trade growing at a yearly 5% to 7%, forecasts suggest the gap between supply and demand of carrying volume should be reduced.

Co-Op Blue Square Property and Investments, one of the country's leading retail chains, reported a small drop in net profits for the second quarter of 1996 despite a high growth in sales.

Second quarter profits fell to NIS 16.94 million compared to NIS 17.87m. in the corresponding period last year. Net profits in the first six months of the year increased 36.4% to NIS 30.82m. compared to NIS 22.59m.

Sales grew 32% in the second quarter of 1996, to NIS 638m. compared to NIS 484.2m. The growth was due to an increase in food sales and also the merger of Hamashbir Lazarchan Tel Aviv and Hamashbir Lazarchan Haifa at the start of 1996.

Ya'acov Gelband, chairman of the board of directors of Blue Square Property and Investments, said Hamashbir Lazarchan is scheduled to open two new branches, on a total area of 3,600 sq.m., by the end of the year. So far, the chain has opened a 2,700 sq.m. branch in Karmiel and a 1,800

sq.m. chain in Ashdod. In the reported period, the chain also opened a Hyper branch in Beersheba and a 3,000 sq.m. Super Center branch in Ashdod.

In July Blue Square - Israel, Co-Op Blue Square's parent company, raised \$76m. in a public offering on Wall Street.

Ararat Insurance, a subsidiary of Clal Insurance, moved to a profit from a loss in the first six months of the year. The company reported a net profit of NIS 11.84m. compared to a net profit of NIS 9.03m. in the same period last year.

Net profits in the second quarter of the year increased 180% to NIS 6.38m. compared to NIS 2.27m. Management attributed the improved results to the company's implementation of a recovery program last year which involved a cut-back in expenses, closer of loss making businesses and installation of a new computer.

In the general insurance field Ararat suffered losses of NIS 2.04m. compared to NIS 22.4m. in the first half.

Earnings from the life insurance sector increased to NIS 12.6m. in the six month period compared to NIS 10.58m. in the second quarter, earnings rose to NIS 6.56m. compared to NIS 5.4m.

Pecker Flada, the Kfar Sava-headquartered steel-related holding

company, announced a net profit of NIS 347,000 in the second quarter of 1996 compared to NIS 5.8m. in the corresponding period last year.

The drop in earnings was due, among others, to a 21% drop in sales turnover, to NIS 123.8m. The decrease was also a result of a drop in steel prices worldwide and increased competition in the ceramics field which reduced its subsidiary, Negev Ceramics, contribution to the group's earnings.

Israel General Bank completed the second quarter of 1996 with a 13.7% drop in net profits to NIS 3.31m. compared to a net profit of NIS 3.83m. in the corresponding period last year.

Net profits in the first six months of the year fell 24.2% to NIS 5.53m. compared to NIS 7.3m. Net return on equity on an annual basis fell to 4.9% in the first half compared to 6.8%.

Management said earnings were hindered by a drop in earnings from financing operations in the first half, to NIS 15.2m. compared to NIS 21.4m. The decrease was due to an erosion in profits in the shekel sector and also investments in the financial markets.

Operating and other income increased 8.6% in the first six months to NIS 29.8m. compared to NIS 27.4m. Operating and other expenses rose to NIS 35.01m. compared to NIS 34.3m.

Total assets rose to NIS 2.23b. from NIS 2.17b. at the end of 1995. Credit to the public grew to NIS 1.07b. from NIS 1.05b.

### ISRAEL MONEY MARKETS

Patah (foreign currency deposit rates) (29.7.96)

Currency (deposit for)	3 MONTHS	6 MONTHS	12 MONTHS
U.S. dollar (\$20,000)	4.750	4.275	3.575
German mark (DM 200,000)	3.875	4.000	4.125
Swiss franc (SF 200,000)	1.750	1.875	2.250
Yen (10 million yen)	1.000	1.125	1.500

### Shekel Foreign Exchange Rates\* (22.8.96)

CURRENCY BASKET	CHECKS AND TRANSFERS		BANKNOTES		Rep. Rate**
	Buy	Sell	Buy	Sell	
U.S. dollar	3.5199	3.5767	3.07	3.22	3.5450
U.S. dollar	3.1298	3.1778	3.07	3.22	3.1590
German mark	2.1083	2.1408	2.07	2.18	2.1111
Pound sterling	4.8501	4.8284	4.78	5.00	4.8881
French franc	0.6160	0.6280	0.80	0.84	0.8200
Japanese yen (100)	2.8863	2.8949	2.83	2.98	2.9073
Dutch guilder	1.8778	1.9061	1.84	1.94	1.8629
Australian dollar	2.9329	2.8449	2.86	2.98	2.9115
Swedish krona	0.4733	0.4810	0.46	0.49	0.4782
Norwegian krona	0.4881	0.4940	0.47	0.51	0.4878
Danish krone	0.4580	0.5538	0.53	0.57	0.5463
Finnish mark	0.5829	0.7041	0.68	0.72	0.6989
Canadian dollar	2.2741	2.3108	2.23	2.36	2.2982
Australian dollar	2.4722	2.5121	2.42	2.56	2.4988
S. African rand	0.6850	0.6861	0.62	0.70	0.6914
Belgian franc (10)	1.0225	1.0590	1.00	1.08	1.0250
Austrian schilling (10)	2.9395	3.0418	2.94	3.08	3.0039
Italian lira (1000)	2.0602	2.0935	2.02	2.13	2.0767
Jordanian dinar	4.3500	4.8500	4.35	4.85	4.5181
Egyptian pound	0.8800	0.9700	0.89	0.97	0.9841
ECU	3.8618	4.0257	—	—	3.8805
Irish punt	6.0388	5.1201	4.95	5.20	5.0798
Spanish peseta (100)	2.4876	2.5278	2.44	2.57	2.5007

\*These rates vary according to bank. \*\*Bank of Israel. SOURCE: BANK LEUMI

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BUSINESS & FINANCE

Stocks up on hope of rate cut

TEL AVIV STOCK MARKET

ROBERT DANIEL



Two-Sided Index Maof Index

STOCK investors will be watching the central bank with some optimism that governor Jacob Frenkel will order an interest rate cut on Monday. The stock indexes rose yesterday, led by shares of Koor Industries Ltd., Africa-Israel Investments and Clal Trading. The broader market was weaker, with two issues falling for every one that rose. Trading remained below the monthly average. "Specific shares are giving a little boost to the market," said Zvi Stepak, co-managing director of tel aviv securities firm Meitav Ltd. At the same time, some investors are now expecting either no cut or a reduction of perhaps 0.5 percentage points because of the government's continuing budget deficits, Stepak said. And withdrawals from the provident funds are continuing, he said, which also could pressure stock prices. The Two-Sided Index rose 0.66 percent to 173.28, while the Maof Index advanced 0.82% to 184.16. Across the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange, NIS 56.4 million of shares traded, 11% below the month's daily average of NIS 63.2m. The most active issue was Koor Industries Ltd., up 2% on NIS 5.4m. of shares traded. Koor rose as the company entered a joint venture with hotel chain ITT Sheraton.

London shares hit high

WORLD MARKET ROUNDUP

LONDON (Reuters) - European stocks bounded higher yesterday after Germany surprised markets with a greater than expected cut in its main money market rate that triggered a series of similar falls among its trading partners. British stocks jumped to a record close after the Bundesbank cut 0.3 of a percentage point off its securities repurchase rate (repo) to an historic low of 3.0 percent. London's bluechip FTSE Index ended 19 points higher at 3,891.1 and bourses across Europe were buoyed as rate cuts emerged in swift succession. The Bank of France quickly followed the German lead by lowering its intervention rate to 3.35% from 3.55. Belgium, the Netherlands and Austria then acted to trim their rates too. Equity markets, which had traded cautiously through the morning as the German central bankers met, rose immediately after the Frankfurt news as investors cheered the cut as a positive move for stocks.

Blue chips rally

WALL STREET REPORT

NEW YORK (Reuters) - Blue-chip stocks were swept higher yesterday by renewed strength in technology shares and surprisingly large cuts in European interest rates. Based on early and unofficial data, the Dow Jones industrial average ended up 43.28 points at 5,733.10, putting the index about 45 points from its record high of 5,778.00 set on May 22. In the broader market, advancing issues outnumbered declines by a 14-8 margin on moderately active volume of 356 million shares on the New York Stock Exchange.

Key Representative Rates
US dollar ... NIS 3.1560 +0.29%
Sterling ..... NIS 4.8891 +0.30%
Mark ..... NIS 2.1111 -0.49%

NEW YORK MARKET INDEXES

DJ Industrials: 5721.62 +1.8
DJ Transport: 3072.75 -1.3
DJ Utilities: 3179.08 +0.8
DJ Commodities: 1899.51 +7.7
NYSE Composite: 257.7 -0.4
NYSE Technology: 208.71 +1.1
NYSE Energy: 208.71 +1.1
NYSE Chemical: 208.71 +1.1
NYSE Health Care: 208.71 +1.1
NYSE Financial: 208.71 +1.1
NYSE Real Estate: 208.71 +1.1
NYSE Other: 208.71 +1.1

Other stock market indexes

FTSE 100: 3891.1 +18.1
Tokyo Nikkei average: 13382.3 +2.2
Singapore SMI: 3382.3 +3.7
Hong Kong Hang Seng: 11478.8 +2.3
Israel Index: 1743.3 +2.2

Israeli stocks in NY

AYRZ / AMEX: 36 -0.75
Amir: 1.75 -0.125
Amir A: 1.75 -0.125
Amir B: 1.75 -0.125
Amir C: 1.75 -0.125
Amir D: 1.75 -0.125
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Amir W: 1.75 -0.125
Amir X: 1.75 -0.125
Amir Y: 1.75 -0.125
Amir Z: 1.75 -0.125

INFLATION MARKETS

Dollar crosses (US)
Pound: spot 1.5512 +0.01
Sep future (CME) 1.56 -0.0025
Euro: spot 1.6375 +0.0025
Sep future (CME) 1.64 -0.0025
Yen: spot 106.23 -0.21
Sep future (CME) 106.23 -0.21

LIBOR RATES

Dollar 3 months: 5.4250
Dollar 6 months: 5.5000
Dollar 9 months: 5.5750
Dollar 12 months: 5.6500
Euro 3 months: 5.4250
Euro 6 months: 5.5000
Euro 9 months: 5.5750
Euro 12 months: 5.6500
Yen 3 months: 5.4250
Yen 6 months: 5.5000
Yen 9 months: 5.5750
Yen 12 months: 5.6500

Foreign financial data courtesy of CommStock Trading Ltd.

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INFLATION COMMODITIES AND METALS

US commodities
Coffee (CME) 138.00 -0.25
Cocoa (CME) 181.10 +0.05
Wheat (CBOT) 490.50 -0.25
Orange Juice (CME) 121.10 -0.25

London commodities

Crude Oil (ICE) 101.4 -0.16
Natural Gas (NYMEX) 1.75 -0.05
Gold (COMEX) 327.00 -0.25

Spot market metals (US)

Copper: spot 0.9250
Silver: spot 0.5200
Gold: spot 327.00

New York metal futures

Gold (COMEX) 327.00 +0.25
Silver (COMEX) 0.5200 +0.01
Copper (COMEX) 0.9250 +0.01

London metal fixes

Gold AM fix: 327.00
Gold PM fix: 327.00
Silver fix: 0.5200

TEL AVIV STOCKS

Multi-sided trading Two-sided trading

Commercial Banks: Bank Leumi, Bank Hapoalim, Bank Mizrahi
Industrials: Koor Industries, Africa-Israel Investments, Clal Trading
Investment Companies: Meitav Ltd.
Property, Building & Agriculture: ITT Sheraton
Trade & Services: Various retail and service companies

ISRAEL DISCOUNT BANK

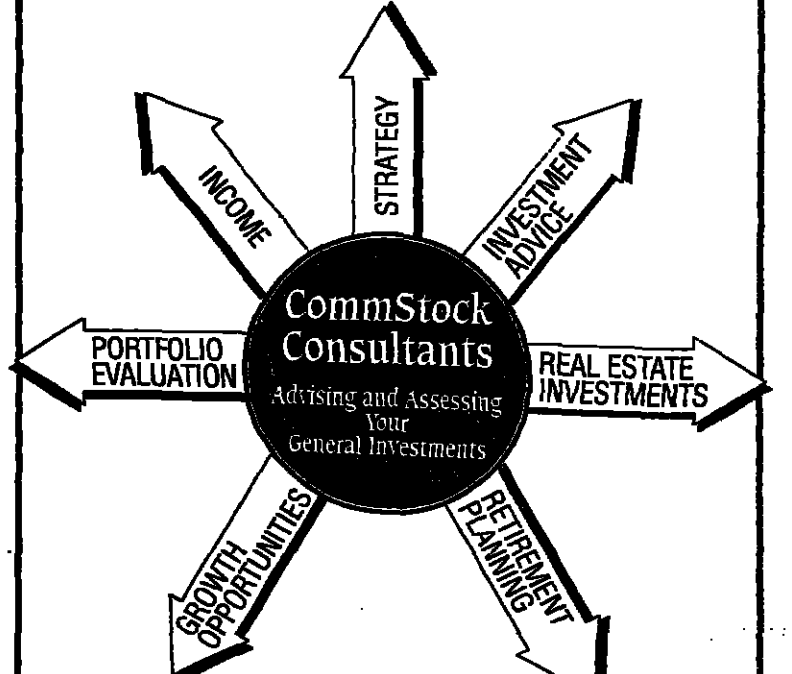
INTERNATIONAL STOCK PRICES

NEW YORK: IBM, Microsoft, Intel, Apple, Cisco
LONDON: British Petroleum, Shell, Glaxo
PARIS: Air France, Bouygues
FRANKFURT: Daimler-Benz, Volkswagen
Other international listings including Tokyo, Hong Kong, and Singapore.

CURRENCY CROSS RATES

MARK STERLING YEN SFR FFR
STERLING 2.3118/26
YEN 1.3761/62
SFR 123.49/81
FFR 0.2933/35

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(Reuter) - King  
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# Sharansky to deal with political issues in Russia

Jordan on improving trade relations, he told Jordanian Ambassador Omar Rifai, during a meeting yesterday. Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu and King Hussein had discussed trade issues during their meeting several weeks ago.

Sharansky asked Rifai to tell the Jordanian Industry and Trade Ministry that Israel takes improving these ties very seriously and is interested in upgrading the trade agreement the two countries signed last October.

Business people at all levels should be meeting to discuss bringing more Jordanian goods into Israel, Sharansky said. Israel and Jordan both are interested in forming a committee to deal with improving trade and encouraging joint industrial projects, he said. (10m)

# Dominican tourist denied entry by Interior Ministry

**HAIM SHAPIRO**

A CPA from the Dominican Republic, invited here to visit a local family, was recently held for a day-and-a-half at Ben-Gurion Airport, then denied entry by Interior Ministry officials, who apparently believed she planned to find work and remain here illegally, even though she earns about \$40,000 a year.

The accountant, Juana Tineo, had been invited by Gary Lichtenstein, a family friend, to visit here for three weeks. She was due to arrive on July 12, but on July 13, Lichtenstein got a call from her from New York, saying that she had been locked up at Ben-Gurion Airport and sent back.

In a letter Tineo wrote to the Israeli Embassy in Santo Domingo, she told of her joy at the prospect of visiting friends and the Holy Land. She noted the embassy had told her before her trip that she would not need a visa. She had a return ticket, dated three weeks after her arrival.

Arriving at Ben-Gurion on a Tower Air flight on Friday morning, she was taken aside for questioning. She showed them the money she was carrying (\$700) and credit cards with credit of some \$6,500. The officials told her the credit cards were "just cardboard." They also searched her luggage, examining and asking questions about each item.

"This was done in a most humiliating way, a situation I never thought I would experience in my whole life," she said.

Without allowing her to call either her friends in Jerusalem or the Dominican Embassy, Interior Ministry officials locked her up. At one point, many hours after her arrival, the officials did escort her to the arrival hall to see if her friends were waiting for her. She could not find them. A guard accompanied her every time she went to the bathroom.

Finally, late Saturday night, the police escorted her to a departing Tower Air flight. They gave her documents to the pilot, to be given to her when the plane arrived in New York. It was then she saw that her passport had been stamped "Entry denied."

Lichtenstein is angry about the treatment accorded his friend, but he is even more angry about the fact that the ministry will not admit its mistake. It has barely acknowledged his protests and those of his attorney, Moshe Bazak.

"It's the stonewalling that makes me mad," he said.

Interior Ministry spokeswoman Tova Ellinson said "there was evidence that [Tineo] was not a tourist, but came here to work. That's why she was sent back."

# Alleged spy accepts plea bargain

**HERZL RAD**, charged with spying for Iran, yesterday agreed to plead guilty to having illegal contacts with enemy agents in a plea-bargain arrangement. In exchange, the two most serious charges against him - spying for and aiding an enemy during a time of war - would be dropped and he would not be imprisoned for more than four years.

After the agreement was presented to the Jerusalem District Court, the prosecution requested that Rad be sentenced to four years' imprisonment. Rad's lawyer, Zion Amir, requested that the time Rad has spent in prison since he was arrested last year be counted as part of his term. The court will announce its verdict on September 5.

Last August, the state charged Rad with meeting Iranian agents in Istanbul in March 1995 and volunteering to work for them. A month later, he allegedly flew to Iran under a false name, and cut a deal with the Iranian intelligence service.

Rad later was arrested trying to cross the Turkey-Iran border by foot.

Rad claimed that Iranian agents had kidnapped him while he had been vacationing in Turkey and brought him to Iran, where they tried to convince him to become their agent. The Iranians released him and he claimed he returned to Israel and reported the incident to the General Security Service.

Yesterday, Amir refused to comment on how Rad arrived in Iran.

Rad also refused to discuss the case yesterday, saying that he would not comment until after the verdict. (10m)

# Man held in connection with fraud spree

**YOSEF FRIEDMAN**, 58, who had been wanted by police for 18 months for allegedly stealing millions of shekels from individuals, companies, and banks, was remanded for seven days by Tel Aviv Magistrate's Court yesterday.

According to the police, Friedman would form a partnership and open up a company in order to obtain check books. He would then write checks for large sums of money and then cash them on the grey market.

He also allegedly paid suppliers and others with a few good checks, before the rest in the series bounced.

One woman told the court she had "lent" him NIS 90,000, because she "felt sorry for him."

"He had nearly magical powers, and just looked me straight in the eyes and I ended up giving him the money," she said.

Another woman said he persuaded her to work with him, before "borrowing checks" from her. He allegedly cashed the checks with loan sharks, and promised to pay her back nearly a million shekels.

Police also said that two new immigrants filed complaints, claiming that they gave him "millions of shekels," after he promised to marry them.

His lawyer, David Yiftach, said Friedman was a widower, who had worked as a customs agent until recently, and that the female complainants were simply "scorched women."

But police said that Friedman had also defrauded men.

# NEWS IN BRIEFS

**Police hold Palestinian gas workers**  
Ten workers with the Palestinian Authority's national gas company, who came to a Jerusalem gas station to confiscate equipment from a Palestinian gas station owner they accused of collaborating with Israel, were detained yesterday by the police. A Jerusalem police spokeswoman said the 10 told a gas station worker that if he didn't turn over several gas canisters, he would be taken to Ramallah for interrogation by the Palestinian Police. The attendant managed to call for help from the Israel Police. As of last night, the 10 were still being held. *Bill Human*

**Blood drive set for Jerusalem**  
Magen David Adom and the voluntary organization Ezra Le' marbeh are organizing a blood drive in three Jerusalem locations next week. On Sunday, a bloodmobile will take donations at the Hamashbir Le'tzarchan Plaza between 10 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. In Har Nof's National Religious Synagogue, donors may give blood between 5 p.m. and 10 p.m. The following day, donations will be accepted in the Neveh Ya'acov quarter between 7 p.m. and 10 p.m. MDA reports blood shortages due to the summer vacation. *Judy Siegel*

**Pirate radio station shut down near Jerusalem**  
A pirate radio station whose broadcasts were interfering with national radio and TV broadcasts in the Jerusalem area was shut down yesterday. Police arrested four people suspected of being involved with the "Radio 10" station, which was broadcasting from Nebi Samwil and Jerusalem. Equipment worth hundreds of thousands of dollars was confiscated, the ministry said. *Judy Siegel*

**4 Preventive Security men held for car theft**  
Four Palestinian Preventive Security service agents, suspected of Court yesterday. The four - Yusef Abu On, 20, Balal Abu On, 21, Border Police checkpoint while riding in a car that had been stolen in Ramat Hasharon early this month. *Itim*

**Vehicle bearing anti-Rabin slogan confiscated**  
Ramla police yesterday stopped a commercial vehicle that had the words "Rabin was worse than Hitler, he was suspected of murder the vehicle, which belongs to" painted on it. Police confiscated the vehicle. The two passengers, a Jerusalem and a Shoham resident. In signing the police register, one of them wrote, "Rabin was a murderer, a Jew-hater." *Itim*

# Gov't agrees to fund school guards, health services

**Jerusalem Post Staff**

THE government and the Union of Local Authorities came to an agreement yesterday on funding for school guards and school health services, thus removing at least one threat to the opening of the school year on September 1.

Under the agreement, the localities will pay NIS 20 million toward the estimated NIS 120m. It will cost to post a guard at the entrance to every school building, both Jewish and non-Jewish.

The teachers' unions had threatened to strike any school that did not have a guard posted.

The government also agreed to fully fund school health services - vaccinations, school nurses, and the like - to the tune of NIS 80m.

ULA chairman Adi Eldar praised Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu for his immediate response and understanding of the problems facing the local authorities on these issues.

Meanwhile, the teachers' unions threatened to prevent the opening of the school year because issues relating to their retirement conditions and salary erosion had not yet been resolved. At a meeting with Education Minister Ze'evulun Hammer and ministry Director-General Benzion Dell, the teachers complained that the Treasury wants to cut their salaries by 13 percent.

Hammer said he had asked the Treasury not to make any unilateral moves, and told the union heads he would make sure the teachers would get what is coming to them under the terms of their wage agreements.

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מלך מן האל





GOOD SHOW - England batsman Jim Crawley sweeps the ball for a four off Pakistan's bowler Aamir Sohail during England's first day of the final test at the Oval cricket ground in South London yesterday. (Reuters)

# Crawley creeps towards maiden Test century

LONDON (Reuters) - John Crawley's highest Test score kept Pakistan at bay yesterday as England reached 278 for six on the first day of the decisive third Test at the Oval.

Crawley was unbeaten on 94 at the close after almost four hours of measured strokeplay, keeping alive the home side's chances of a big first innings total in a match they must win to square the best-of-three series.

The 24-year-old Lancashire batsman, whose previous best in 12 Tests was 72 against Australia in Sydney in 1994, blossomed after a shaky start and enjoyed a splendid fourth-wicket stand of 89 with Graham Thorpe to lift England to 205 for three at one point in the afternoon.

It took a determined effort from the Pakistan attack to apply the brakes in fast-scoring conditions and the final session yielded a modest 70 runs as Crawley opted to dig in rather than accelerate towards a maiden Test century.

Crawley's first 10 balls scarcely hinted at a great innings to come.

He might have been out lbw, caught at slip and bowled without playing a shot as Waqar Younis, who had already removed Michael Atherton and Nasser Hussain, strove for another victim.

But Crawley, who attended the same school as Atherton and has long been regarded as a Test prospect of similar class, settled down impressively with Thorpe, playing leg-spinner Mushtaq Ahmed with an ease most of his team-mates struggled to match.

Three times in the same over the leg-spinner was struck clinically through the off-side and the Lancashire man's 50 required 19 fewer deliveries than Thorpe's 89-ball effort.

But to England's dismay, Thorpe, who has now passed 50 on 20 occasions for England yet scored only two centuries, was adjudged lbw for 54 to seamer Mohammad Akram, to become the third player guilty of wasting a good start.

Alec Stewart best summed up his side's slightly uneven day, hitting nine fours in a fluent 44 only to be bowled hitting across the line at a quicker ball from Mushtaq.

Hussain went for 12, steering Waqar to second slip, and England were in danger of squandering a good toss when the paceman bowled Atherton behind his legs for 31 with the score on 116.

It was a brave effort considering Atherton was struck a painful blow on the right shoulder in only the third over by Wasim Akram, who also had his rival captain dropped at leg slip when on 15.

The final session honors, though, were mostly Pakistan's after Nick Knight, who hoisted Mushtaq for a six over mid-wicket, was bowled by the same bowler off his pad and arm for 17.

The old ball belatedly began to swing for the faster bowlers and Wasim, who took nine for 103 in the match when Pakistan clinched a 2-1 series victory on their last visit to the Oval in 1992, surged back to remove Chris Lewis for five.

England, who unexpectedly omitted Andy Caddick to include

two spinners, negotiated one over with the new ball before the close but will need the tail to give Crawley, who has faced 200 balls and hit 10 fours so far, solid support if they are to build a match-winning total.

Only one side - England in 1994 against South Africa - has come back from 1-0 to square a three-Test series in Britain since 1965.

In England's favor, though, is an unsettled weather forecast and illness to Salim Malik who spent a long time off the field with a high temperature and a sore throat.

England first innings

M.Atherton b Waqar Younis	31
A.Stewart b Mushtaq Ahmed	44
N.Hussain c Saad Amer b Waqar Younis	12
G.Thorpe lbw b Mohammad Akram	54
J.Crawley not out	94
N.Knight b Mushtaq Ahmed	17
C.Lewis b Wasim Akram	5
S.Saleem not out	1
Extras (b-11 w-1 nb-5)	20
Total (for six wickets)	278
To bat R.Cook, D.Cook, A.Malloy	

Bowling: M.Akram 25-8-61; Waqar Younis 20-8-70; Mohammad Akram 12-1-41-1; Mushtaq Ahmed 27-5-78-2; Aamir Sohail 6-1-17-0; Pakistan: Aamir Sohail, Saad Amer, Ijaz Ahmed, Izzatullah Khan, Salim Malik, Asif Mujtaba, Wasim Akram, Moin Khan, Mushtaq Ahmed, Waqar Younis, Mohammad Akram

# Despite 3-2 victory, Rishon drops out of European Cup play

IRONI Rishon Lezion's first season in Europe came to an abrupt end last night on home soil against Moldova's Constructorul Kishinyov. Despite a 3-2 win on the night, the Rishonis emerged losers in this second leg European Cup preliminary tie, as Constructorul, 1-0 victors in the first meeting, advanced on the away-goals rule.

In reality, Rishon threw the game away. After twice creating a two-goal lead, the Israelis then committed childish errors that allowed the Moldovans to score. To add insult to injury, the second goal came with just three minutes left to play and while Kishinyov had just yellow men on the field when a second yellow card had ended Ion Tabanov's participation in the game.

The Rishonis had a dream start, canceling out the Moldovan's first leg advantage after just ten minutes when defender Moshe Sabag guided a Meir Azran corner into goal.

In the 26th minute, Rishon went ahead on aggregate with a sensational goal by Nissan Kapeta, who charged the Moldovan defense from the half-way line and finally planted a powerful shot unerringly past Constructorul's reserve goalkeeper.

The Moldovans delivered their response three minutes before half time, when Sagi Strauss was found wanting in the Rishon goal, and his misjudgment allowed Sergei Rogachev, the scorer in the first leg, to add to his goal tally.

Undaunted, the Rishonis eventually broke through the visitors' defense in the 88th minute when

DEREK FATTAL

Thomas Cibola, the best player on the field, made good use of a Danny Albert pass to put the Israelis on course for the next round of the competition.

Ironi looked sure of their advancement after Tabanov was dismissed in the 75th minute. However, with just three minutes to go, Constructorul seized what proved to be the all-important goal after a fluffed clearance, left Gennady Stefan with the simple task of tapping the ball home.

The host side lacked the stamina needed to create any further dangerous moves in the dying minutes.

The Moldovans proceeded into today's Cup Winners' Cup draw in Geneva while the Rishonis will have to learn to keep their concentration on the job in hand for the full 45 minutes of each half, particularly when playing in Europe.

# Local soccer season begins

THE new National League soccer season kicks off this weekend amid the usual great expectations. But with the hopes of European success now behind almost all behind us, the big clubs are now back in focus on the league with the plans for continental play put on hold for at least another season.

Defending champions Maccabi Tel Aviv take a journey up the coast road to Kiryat Eliezer for an interesting clash with Hapoel Haifa. But while they will be treating the match with a lot less trepidation than their match in Istanbul against Fenerbahce on Wednesday night, Maccabi will nevertheless take Haifa very seriously. A repeat of their good display in Turkey which ended in a 1-1 draw but nevertheless was not enough to see Maccabi into the European Champions' League, will have the rest of the league worried, and a

ORI LEWIS

win against the strong Haifaite will make it crystal clear that Maccabi has the ability to go for a third consecutive title.

Haifa, on the other hand, cannot be discounted, they have no intention of letting this showcase weekend go unnoticed and gaining the scalp of Maccabi Tel Aviv would be a great coup for Rubie Shapira's men.

The long-awaited National League debut of Hapoel Taiba is on hold, as their opponents, Ironi Rishon Lezion played in the European Cup Winners' Cup against Constructorul Kishinyov of Moldova. That match has been scheduled for Tuesday evening in Rishon.

Another interesting clash tomorrow is the one at Bloomfield between Hapoel Tel Aviv and Maccabi Haifa. Neither

club is at the top of their game and this will be a good opportunity to gauge the potential of both sides.

Elsewhere, severe financial problems has forced Hapoel Zafirim Holon to field a weakened side in their away clash with Hapoel Kfar Sava. Coach Elisha Levy will not be on the bench as a protest against the club's financial plight.

This weekend's National League fixtures (all matches tomorrow unless stated): Hapoel Kfar Sava v. Zafirim Holon, Kfar Sava, today 16:45; Hapoel Tel Aviv v. Maccabi Haifa, Bloomfield 18:00; Hapoel Jerusalem v. Hapoel Petah Tikva, Teddy Stadium, 17:30; Ironi Rishon Lezion v. Hapoel Taiba, Rishon, Tuesday 27/8, 17:00; Hapoel Beit She'an v. Bnei Yehuda, Beit She'an 17:00; Maccabi Petah Tikva v. Bet Jerusalem, Petah Tikva, 17:00; Hapoel Haifa v. Maccabi Tel Aviv, Kiryat Eliezer, 18:30; Hapoel Beersheba v. Maccabi Herzliya, Beersheba, 18:30.

# Reds show blacker side after stormy tie with Everton

LONDON (AP) - Only two games into the season and the darker side of Manchester United emerged.

After watching his team come back from 2-0 down to tie with Everton, angry team manager Alex Ferguson is restrained from getting at the referee while captain Eric Cantona has a confrontation with a linesman.

Before Wednesday's game at Old Trafford, the Reds were smiling and looked in good shape to head towards a fourth league title in five seasons. In high-profile games against Newcastle in the Charity Shield at Wembley and at Wimbledon in their first league game, they had scored seven goals without reply to two easy wins.

When the pressure was on against Everton, there were scowls on the faces of Ferguson, Cantona and the rest of the players and it almost overboiled into trouble.

With his team 2-0 down, Cantona glared menacingly at a linesman after a call he didn't like and, with the play continuing up the field, he told the official what he thought of his decision.

After United had hit back to scramble a 2-2 tie, Ferguson was incensed that referee Graham Poll had not added enough time on for Everton time-wasting and injury stoppages.

After Poll had blown the final whistle, Ferguson left the bench and made for the official. Fortunately for both, he was held back by his assistant, former United star striker Brian Kidd.

Ferguson was still fuming when he spoke to reporters 20 minutes later.

"Can anybody tell me why they give referees a watch?" he asked. "It's certainly not to keep the time. That was a Mickey Mouse one."

"Time-keeping should be taken out of the referees' hands. In the

modern-day game they are just not able to keep up with the speed of it and do it properly," Ferguson said.

"There should be a time-keeper and everybody seems to say that now. Tonight was a perfect example of why. The players ran their feet off to get a result there and they were faced with that obstacle. It sickens you."

Now the Reds, who are second in the standings behind surprise leader Sheffield Wednesday, face 1995 champion Blackburn Sunday still with plenty to prove despite last season's league and cup-winning triumphs.

Ferguson's team appears to have strength in depth in midfield and attack. But Everton revealed defensive weaknesses and Duncan Ferguson's two strikes showed that United may have a soft center which other teams can also exploit.

Blackburn is unlikely to be one of them, however.

Titlists only two seasons ago, Rovers have now lost two of the main forces behind that championship run. Top scorer Alan Shearer moved to Newcastle in a world record £15 million transfer and manager Kenny Dalglish, who took a backroom job as Director of Football after that title triumph, has now quit completely.

Blackburn is next to last in the standings after two losses, no goals scored and a cloud of pessimism hanging over the club. A heavy loss to Manchester United Sunday won't help lift the gloom.

Sheffield Wednesday, which began the campaign with victories over Aston Villa and Leeds, is the only team with maximum points from two games and now travels to meet last season's runner up, Newcastle.

The Magpies are trying to improve on a slow start. After the

4-0 Charity Shield loss to Manchester United, Kevin Keegan's team tumbled 2-0 at Everton but then recovered by beating Wimbledon 2-0 with Shearer scoring his first Premier League goal in Newcastle colors.

Promoted Sunderland, which climbed into third after an upset 4-1 victory at Nottingham Forest Wednesday, has a tough game at fourth place Liverpool tomorrow.

Veteran Irish international striker Niall Quinn scored twice for Sunderland at Forest and, with Liverpool hitting five goals in two games, a high-scoring match at Anfield looks likely.

Everton, which began with a victory over Newcastle and a tie at Manchester United, now goes to Tottenham, which has started with an impressive win at Blackburn followed by a disappointing tie at home to Derby.

Chelsea, getting stronger with every game and with no goals conceded after two outings, should be too strong for struggler Coventry, which started with a tie and a loss.

Promoted Leicester, unbeaten after two games, hosts Arsenal while the other newcomer, Derby, goes to Aston Villa with two points from two ties.

Stung by its home loss to Sunderland, Nottingham Forest hopes to hit back with a victory over another team from the north-east, Middlesbrough while West Ham and Southampton, both looking for their first wins, meet at Upton Park.

Scottish titlist Glasgow Rangers, spurred by a spectacular 7-2 victory in Russia over Alania Vladikavkaz in the European Champions Cup, hopes to follow it up with a home triumph over promoted Dundee United in the Premier Division while Celtic goes to Kilmarnock.

# Ripken leads Orioles over Mariners

BALTIMORE (AP) - Cal Ripken went 4-for-5 with a homer as the surging Baltimore Orioles overcame two home runs by Seattle's Alex Rodriguez to beat the Mariners 10-5 on Wednesday.

Chris Hoiles and Bobby Bonilla also homered for the Orioles, who won for the 16th time in 22 games and pulled within five games of the New York Yankees in the AL East. Baltimore trails Chicago by a half-game in the wild-card derby.

Rodriguez also doubled and drove in four runs, but it wasn't enough to prevent the Mariners from losing for the 13th time in 18 games.

Rodriguez, 21, became the fifth-youngest player in major league history to hit at least 30 home runs in one season when he homered off Scott Erickson (8-10) in the first inning. Mel Ott, Tony Conigliaro and Frank Robinson were 20 when they hit No. 30, and Ted Williams was two days younger than Rodriguez when he did it.

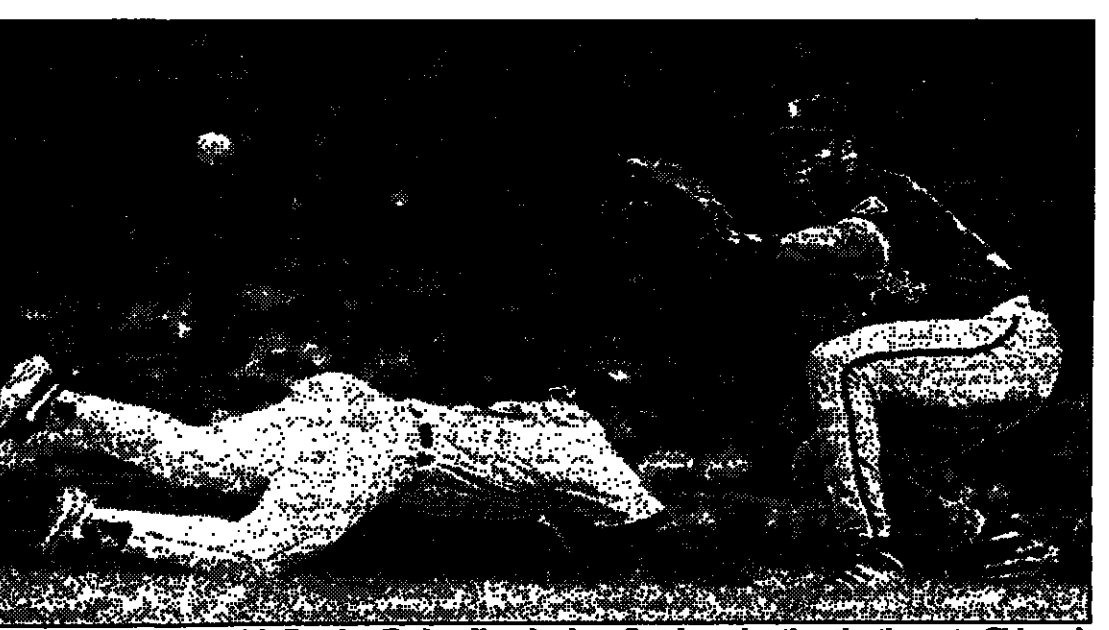
Rodriguez is only the fifth shortstop to hit at least 30 homers in a season, the first since Ripken hit 34 in 1991. Rodriguez hit No. 31 in the fifth inning, a three-run shot that made it 5-5.

Ripken led off the Orioles' half of the fifth with his 21st homer to put Baltimore ahead 6-5. Bonilla added a three-run shot off Randy Johnson in the seventh, the first runs Johnson has allowed in seven career relief appearances. Sterling Hitchcock (12-5) was the loser.

Angels 7, Yankees 1

Chili Davis hit a pair of two-run homers and Jason Dickson won despite giving up a home run on his first major league pitch for visiting California.

Davis connected in the first off Jimmy Key (9-10) and added his 25th of the season in a five-run ninth, an opposite-field shot to left off Jeff Nelson.



HE'S IN - The Detroit's Damon Easley dives back to first base, beating the throw to Chicago's Frank Thomas in the fifth inning of their game at Tiger Stadium on Wednesday. (Reuters)

Derek Jeter sent Dickson's first pitch into the left-field seats but that was the only run he allowed. The Yankees, who have lost eight of 12, stranded 11 runners and hit into three double plays, despite outthrowing California 13-9.

Dickson gave up 10 hits in 6 1/2 innings, walked two and struck out one. Troy Percival pitched 1 1/2 innings for his 32nd save in 34 chances.

Key allowed five hits in seven innings - matching his longest outing this season - struck out five and walked none.

Red Sox 6, Athletics 4

Mike Stanley hit a two-run single to break an eighth-inning tie and Mo Vaughn went 3-for-3 with three runs scored, including the game-winner, in host Boston's victory over Oakland.

The Red Sox committed four errors but won for the 16th time in 21 games, pulling within one game of 501 (63-64) for the first time since losing on Opening Day en route to a franchise-worst 2-12 start.

Mark Brandenburg (4-4) got two

outs and Heathcliff Slocumb pitched the ninth for his 22nd save, and seventh in a row. Doug Johns (6-12), the first of four Oakland pitchers in the eighth inning, took the loss despite facing just one batter - Vaughn - and getting him to hit an easy fly to right-center.

NATIONAL LEAGUE

Braves 4, Reds 3

Pinch-hitter Luis Polonia's sacrifice fly in the bottom of the ninth inning extended host Atlanta's winning streak to six games.

Mark Lemke opened the ninth with a single off Jeff Brantley (1-2) and by Ryan Klesko, Marquis Grissom tried to bunt the runners over, but

Brantley threw to third to get Lemke. Klesko then moved to third on a wild pitch, and Polonia followed with a fly ball to right fielder Thomas Howard, whose throw was off the mark as Klesko scored standing up.

Pedro Borbon (3-0) pitched the final 1 1/2 innings.

Giants 12, Mets 11

Jay Canizaro's grand slam capped a seven-run first inning as host San Francisco jumped out to a 9-0 lead and then held on to beat New York.

Mets pitcher Robert Person (2-5) lasted only two innings, giving up nine runs, eight earned, on five hits and four walks. He is 0-2 with a 22.74 ERA in his last two starts, allowing 16 earned runs in just 6 1/2 innings.

AMERICAN LEAGUE

Team	W	L	Pct	GB	L10	Streak	Home	Away
East Division								
New York	72	53	.576		4-4	Lost 1	40-24	32-29
Baltimore	67	58	.538	5	7-3	Won 2	33-30	34-28
Boston	63	64	.496	10	2-7-3	Won 3	37-28	26-36
Toronto	58	69	.457	15	5-6	Won 4	28-33	30-38
Detroit	44	82	.349	28 1/2	2-8	Won 2	25-34	15-48
Central Division								
Cleveland	76	51	.598		5-5	Lost 1	37-24	39-27
Chicago	69	59	.539	7 1/2	2-4-6	Lost 2	34-25	35-34
Minnesota	63	63	.500	12 1/2	2-4-4	Lost 1	31-35	32-28
Milwaukee	60	66	.469	16 1/2	5-5	Won 1	31-35	29-33
Kansas City	58	70	.453	18 1/2	3-7	Lost 4	28-37	32-33
West Division								
Texas	73	54	.575		2-2-2	Won 1	43-24	30-30
Seattle	64	61	.512	8	4-6	Lost 3	31-33	33-28
Oakland	62	67	.481	12	2-7	Lost 2	30-36	33-31
California	58	68	.460	14 1/2	2-5-4	Won 1	36-27	22-41

2-1st game was a win

WEDNESDAY'S AL RESULTS:

California 7, New York 1
Milwaukee 10, Minnesota 7
Detroit 7, Chicago 4
Boston 6, Oakland 4
Toronto 6, Kansas City 2
Baltimore 10, Seattle 5
Texas 10, Cleveland 8

NATIONAL LEAGUE

Team	W	L	Pct	GB	L10	Streak	Home	Away
East Division								
Atlanta	79	46	.632		2-9-1	Won 0	46-21	33-25
Montreal	67	58	.536	12	2-4-6	Lost 3	35-25	29-33
New York	59	69	.461	21 1/2	2-4-6	Lost 1	34-28	25-41
Florida	58	69	.457	22	4-6	Lost 2	32-25	19-44
Philadelphia	52	75	.408	28	4-6	Won 3	27-35	25-40
Central Division								
Houston	68	59	.535		2-5-6	Lost 1	36-24	32-35
St. Louis	67	59	.532	1/2	2-9-4	Lost 2	35-28	33-31
Chicago	63	62	.504	4	6-4	Won 2	36-31	27-31
Cincinnati	62	62	.500	4 1/2	2-6-4	Lost 3	33-31	29-31
Pittsburgh	53	73	.421	14 1/2	2-8	Won 1	27-36	26-37
West Division								
San Diego	70	59	.543		2-6-4	Won 4	36-30	34-29
Los Angeles	68	60	.524	2 1/2	2-6-4	Lost 3	33-28	33-32
Colorado	65	62	.512	4	4-8	Won 3	42-19	23-43
San Francisco	64	70	.475	13 1/2	5-5	Won 1	29-31	25-39

2-1st game was a win

US Open

restage draw

NEW YORK (AP) - Protests by players yesterday forced the US Tennis Association to restage the men's draw for next week's US Open, believed to be a first for America's premier tennis event.

On Wednesday, the tournament announced men's seedings that did not match tour rankings, drawing questions and anger from some players.

"After talking to players, agents and a variety of interested and informed people, we have decided to redo the draw, but not change any of the seedings," USTA president Les Snyder said in a statement.

Other officials said they did not know which players protested.

Thomas Muster of Austria, ranked second by the ATP Tour, was seeded third behind American Michael Chang, and Andre Agassi of the US was moved up a notch.

# SPORTS BRIEFS

Israelis excel at Paralympics

Swimmer Ziv Baran won a bronze medal yesterday at the Paralympics in Atlanta.

In the 100-meter swimming event for the visually impaired, he finished in third place in the time of 1:00.01 minutes.

Baran's medal marked the second medal for the Israeli delegation so far. Shooting marksman Doron Sheziri just missed another medal. He gained 599 points out of 600 possible - but six of his rivals gained all 600 points.

Also yesterday, the handball team placed sixth sixth after a 3-1 loss to France.

Avraham Tshuva

Sanders acquitted of injuring guard

Delon Sanders was acquitted Wednesday of injuring a security guard while leaving Riverfront Stadium on a motor scooter two years ago.

The jury in the \$1 million personal injury lawsuit said Sanders, then playing with the Cincinnati Reds, did not injure the guard.

"This proves you can't take advantage of a person because he's financially secure and I think that was the whole issue," Sanders said.

Sanders, now a defensive back with the Dallas Cowboys, was acquitted last year of criminal charges stemming from the confrontation.

AP



# High-Tech at the Paralympics

## Dragging heavy prostheses is a thing of the past for Atlanta athletes

ATLANTA (AP) - Watch out Olympic athletes. High-tech prosthetics and bike-like wheelchairs are giving Paralympians the push they need to near records set by able-bodied athletes.

Aerodynamic metals and new-age fibers have given disabled athletes a whole new competition curve. You'll seldom see anyone at these games dragging heavy, metal legs or awkwardly maneuvering large wheelchairs around.

"The changes in technology over the last five to 10 years have been remarkable," said Tabi King, spokeswoman for RGP Prosthetics, a San Diego-based prosthetics research firm. "Today, it's all about carbon fiber, titanium and suspension. They certainly allow athletes to excel."

Today's artificial legs and feet weigh less than 5 pounds each, and can be taken off with a flick of the wrist. Athletes have their pick of designs from stiff and springy to designs from stiff and springy for marathons.

"This has meant amputee athletes can train harder and longer and as a result, we are seeing the gaps close between the their times and Olympic times," said Tony Russell, vice president of sports and marketing for Flex-Foot Inc., an Aliso Viejo, California-based prosthetic design firm.

"Not all athletes have the advantage of this technology, and in a way that is unfair," King said. "Some athletes still have to wear legs that are 10 to 15 pounds heavier than the latest innovations. You have to think, now that's a phenomenal athlete. Put him in a high-tech prosthetic and he may do even better."

Heavy, wooden wheelchairs have been transformed into sleek, three-wheeled racing machines. Aluminum and steel frames have given way to aerospace-grade aluminum and titanium alloys. And now, there's a chair for each sport: basketball, racing and even tennis.

"I've only had this chair since October," said Deanna Sodoma, a US wheelchair racer from Carlsbad, California. "That's how amazing the technology is. These wheels are carbon fiber, this metal is titanium. These materials are amazing."

"Racing chairs really parallel a lot of the biking industry," said David Mahaffy, a marketing coordinator for Quickie Designs, Inc., a Fresno, California-based wheelchair manufacturer. "You'll see the same type of wheels and aluminum like you would see in the airline industry."

Likewise, tennis chairs are built with sharply slanted back wheels so athletes can move side to side quickly. In basketball, forwards have higher seats, guards have more slant in their tires to turn quickly.

Still, "state-of-the-art" carries with it a stiff price tag. Prostheses range from \$3,500 to \$7,000. Top wheelchairs can cost between \$2,000 and \$3,300.

And innovation aside, not all Paralympians credit their high-tech help.

"This is the ultimate in aerodynamics," said Jacob Heilveil, a US wheelchair racer, pointing to his yellow, three-wheeled contraption. "But I like to think it's not so much about technology. It's the endurance and desire to win."



ON THE MOVE - Great Britain's David Holding celebrates after winning the 100m wheelchair run at the Atlanta Paralympics. (Reuters)

# According to the numbers

VITO STELLINO

FOOTBALL fans don't follow numbers the way baseball fans do. Football, for example, has no comparable numbers to 2,130, 56 and .367.

This explains why football fans couldn't identify the number 16,726 the way baseball fans could identify 2,130 with Lou Gehrig's consecutive-games playing streak - before Cal Ripken broke the record last season - 56 with Joe DiMaggio's consecutive-game hitting streak and 367 with Ty Cobb's lifetime batting average.

But football fans may soon start to recognize 16,726 - the career rushing yards total rolled up by Walter Payton.

Since Payton retired from the Chicago Bears in 1987, no one has made a serious run at it. Eric Dickerson is a distant second at 13,259.

That's about to change. Emmitt Smith is ready to take a run at it. The eight-year mega-buck contract Smith signed with the Dallas Cowboys last week guaranteed he'll finish his career with the team and he already has 8,956 yards in six years for 13th place on the all-time list.

"That's definitely one goal," Smith said of the rushing record. "My body feels fine. I feel like I have another eight years in me."

The odds are still against Smith because he's averaged 334.5 carries a season. Payton, who played 13 years, averaged 295.2. Those extra 34 carries a year could cause Smith to burn out earlier than Payton did. After all, only six players in NFL history have had 1,000-yard seasons at age 31 or over.

It's going to be interesting to see Smith take a crack at it and that helps explain why Cowboys Owner Jerry Jones shelled out the money to ensure Smith plays out his career in Dallas. Jones is too

much the showman to let Smith ever do it in another uniform.

And here is where the NFL and major league baseball have parity in numbers: astronomical salaries. With the signing of Smith, Jones made the grandiose announcement he was giving him a \$15 million signing bonus.

When the contract was sent to the league office, the bonus was actually \$10.5m. In the fine print, Smith could take \$15m if it were spread over 20 years.

If Smith wanted his money sooner, he has to take \$10.5m, which he did. But the \$15m announcement gave Jones one more chance to annoy his peers.

Coach Vince Tobin of the Arizona Cardinals said, "It seems like some people have the same rules and tend to get around them. The league ought to be run where everyone is playing under the same rules. All you want as a coach is a level playing field."

In Green Bay, where the Packers are a community-owned team and have about \$20m in the bank, President Bob Harlan said of Jones, "I can't imagine anybody doing that except the guy who did it."

But Jones didn't start the manipulation of the cap. Back in 1992, he let Smith sit out for two games before he gave him \$13.6m. For four years, which barely topped a contract Thurman Thomas had just signed with Buffalo to become the highest paid running back.

Once Jones saw the league wasn't going to stop teams from exploiting loopholes in the bargaining agreement, Jones decided he'd play that game, too. When it comes to playing games with money, Jones is at the head of the class.

That's why he made sure that if Smith breaks Payton's record, he's going to do it with a star on his helmet. *The Baltimore Sun*

# Shearer shines at home Nebraska seeks 3rd-straight college grid crown

LONDON (Reuters) - Alan Shearer, the world's most expensive player, scored with a brilliant free-kick on his home debut for Newcastle in a 2-0 win over Wimbledon in the Premier League on Wednesday. Big rivals Manchester United, starting their first home league defeat in 31 matches in the face, battled like the champions they are from 2-0 down to draw 2-2 with Everton.

In the night's other big match, featuring a dazzling galaxy of foreign imports, Chelsea beat Middlesbrough 1-0 thanks to a Roberto Di Matteo 30-meter strike four minutes from the end.

At Old Trafford, both the Everton goals came in the first half courtesy of big striker Duncan Ferguson on his 50th appearance for the Merseyside club. But Jordi Cruyff pulled one back for the champions with a fine header 20 minutes from time and with eight minutes left Everton's David Unsworth, attempting to clear, only succeeded in turning the ball over his own line.

At St James's Park, Newcastle was set on its way in the third minute by another costly ex-Blackburn player, David Barry, who chipped over Wimbledon keeper Neil Sullivan from 30m. Shearer finally got in on the act with just two minutes left. Fouled by Chris Perry, the Newcastle-born striker decided to take the free-kick himself and from 20m, curled it into the corner of the net.

Shearer wheeled away in delight as Newcastle sealed its first victory of the season and only some way to forgetting the disappointment of Saturday's 2-0 defeat at Everton and the 4-0

Charity Shield drubbing by Manchester United.

Serie A came to Chelsea, along with various other Europeans and Brazilians, with big things expected of Chelsea's Gianluca Vialli and Middlesbrough's Fabrizio Ravanelli, a hat-trick scorer against Liverpool on Saturday.

But it was midfielder Di Matteo, a costly close season signing from Lazio, who broke the deadlock to earn Ruud Gullit his first win as a manager.

Gareth Southgate, the man whose missed penalty sent England out of Euro 96, gave Aston Villa a 64th-minute winner, but not from the penalty spot, at home to a dispirited Blackburn who could offer little in response as it went down 1-0.

After the game, it was announced that Blackburn's director of football and ex-manager Kenny Dalglish was leaving the club by mutual agreement.

Sunderland found a rich vein of scoring form at Nottingham Forest with first half strikes from Michael Gray, Richard Ord and two goals from new signing Niall Quinn.

Alf-Inge Haaland provided the only consolation as the North East side went in 4-1 at the interval and that is how it stayed to cheer manager Peter Reid and the Sunderland faithful.

Toddy Sheringham presented Tottenham with a 34th-minute lead at home to Derby, but the visitors, who earned a late draw at home to Leeds on Saturday, did the same again, thanks to Christian Dailly.

Leicester was indebted to promising youngster Emile

Heskey who struck in the sixth and 42nd minutes against Southampton.

An otherwise quiet Matt le Tissier, in front of watching England manager Glenn Hoddle, gave his side hope from the penalty spot after 68 minutes, but Leicester held on for a 2-1 win with Southampton's Barry Venison sent off.

Gary McAllister showed Coventry the way forward after their dismal showing at home on Saturday when his 12th-minute goal gave his new side the lead over West Ham.

But the Hammers surged back in the second half and deservedly leveled with a 74th-minute equalizer from defender Marc Rieper.

After two matches, Sheffield Wednesday is the surprise Premier League leader with two victories from its first two games, including a 2-0 win at Leeds on Tuesday.

Newcastle is in mid-table. Shearer, thrilled with his goal, said: "I couldn't be more delighted but to be honest I'm more concerned with getting the three points than scoring."

It was a big bonus to get a goal. I don't really care about the pressure," he was quick to add.

Shearer, who scored 31 Premier League goals for Blackburn last season, said of his free-kick, "It could have gone in the stand or in the top corner. Luckily for me it went in the top corner."

"It was a shame we got off to a bad start against Everton (on Saturday) but there were more signs tonight we are getting it together."

Manchester United's satisfaction at fighting back against

Everton was colored by a late incident involving manager Alex Ferguson.

At the end of the match he had to be restrained by his assistant Brian Kidd and head of security at Old Trafford Ned Kelly as he moved towards match referee Graham Poll.

WEDNESDAY'S RESULTS: PREMIER LEAGUE: Aston Villa 1, Blackburn 0; Chelsea 1, Middlesbrough 0; Leicester 2, Southampton 1; Manchester United 2, Everton 2; Newcastle 2, Wimbledon 0; Nottingham Forest 1, Sunderland 4; Tottenham 1, Derby 1; West Ham 1, Coventry 1. FOOTBALL LEAGUE CUP 1st round, 1st leg: Brighton 0, Birmingham 1; Millwall 1, Peterborough 0; Shrewsbury 0, Tranmere 2.

Premier League Standing Table with columns: Team, G, W, D, L, F, A, Pts. Sheffield Wed 2, 2, 0, 0, 4, 1, 6; Man United 2, 1, 1, 0, 5, 2, 4; Sunderland 2, 1, 1, 0, 4, 1, 4; Liverpool 2, 1, 1, 0, 5, 3, 4; Everton 2, 1, 1, 0, 4, 2, 4; Tottenham 2, 1, 1, 0, 3, 1, 4; Leicester 2, 1, 1, 0, 2, 1, 4; Chelsea 2, 1, 1, 0, 1, 0, 4; Nott Forest 2, 1, 0, 1, 4, 3, 3; Arsenal 2, 1, 0, 1, 2, 2, 3; Aston Villa 2, 1, 0, 1, 2, 2, 3; Aston Villa 2, 1, 0, 1, 2, 2, 3; Newcastle 2, 1, 0, 1, 2, 2, 3; Derby 2, 0, 2, 0, 4, 2, 2; Middlesbrough 2, 0, 1, 1, 3, 4, 1; Southampton 2, 0, 1, 1, 2, 1, 1; Leeds 2, 0, 1, 1, 3, 5, 1; West Ham 2, 0, 1, 1, 1, 4, 1; Coventry 2, 0, 1, 1, 1, 4, 1; Blackburn 2, 0, 2, 0, 2, 3, 0; Wimbledon 2, 0, 2, 0, 2, 5, 0.

NEW YORK (AP) - It's a funny game, college football.

A few years ago, Nebraska coach Tom Osborne couldn't win the Big Ten, Pac-10 and Rose Bowl for the 1998 season. This way, it becomes even easier to match No. 1 vs. No. 2 in a bowl game.

Guess what? His Cornhuskers are going for an unheard-of third straight national title and he's still being criticized.

"You do what you can," Osborne said. "You take your shots. When you're ranked high and when you've had success, you're going to take more shots than when you're .500. I'm not complaining about it, that's just the way it is."

It seems the more things change in college football, the more they remain the same.

The College Football season gets underway on Sunday when Penn State takes on USC in the Kickoff Classic.

Take the Big Eight and Southwest conferences. They're gone, swept up into the powerhouse Big 12, expanded WAC and the fledgling Conference USA.

Guess what? The usual suspects, Nebraska and Colorado, are favored in the Big 12 North, and Texas and Texas A&M are favored in the South. Don't be surprised to see Nebraska vs. Texas in the league title game.

After 20 years, UCLA is without coach Terry Donahue, Oklahoma has its third coach in three years and Georgia finally dumped Ray Goff.

Guess what? The dramatic changes will do little to alter the fortunes of three glamorous programs in the doldrums.

Over the summer, the bowl

alliance gave birth to the super alliance, which will include the Big Ten, Pac-10 and Rose Bowl for the 1998 season. This way, it becomes even easier to match No. 1 vs. No. 2 in a bowl game.

Guess what? There are still loopholes. What happens if three or more teams are undefeated? If no teams are undefeated?

And just when it seemed like the game itself was set, the NCAA rules committee voted for a tiebreaker in regular-season games.

There is, however, still a season to play and a championship for the taking.

Spike Dykes, coach at Texas Tech, had this view of Nebraska's dominance:

"Somebody has to head them off sooner or later," he said. "Russia fell, but how long did that take?"

Riding a 25-game winning streak, No. 1 Nebraska is loaded again. The biggest question is whether Scott Frost can adequately replace the talented Tommie Frazier at quarterback.

"Hey, I'm not Tommie," said Frost, a Stanford transfer from Wood River, Nebraska. "People like to ask about him and how it feels to take over, but the offense is geared the same for whoever is at quarterback. It's up to us to run it."

He'll have plenty of support. Up front will be the usual array of 300-pound linemen, led by tackles Chris Dishman and Eric Anderson. Aaron Taylor has moved from guard to center.

Sure, the Huskers lost Lawrence Phillips. But they have Ahman Green, who set a school freshman record with 1,086 yards last season. Defensive ends Jared Touch and Grant Wistrom and linebacker Terrell Farley anchor a unit that allowed just 13.6 points per game in '95.

There are plenty of challengers, all with classy quarterbacks.

Peyton Manning, son of Archie, is ready to lead No. 2 Tennessee on a run for its first title since 1951; Danny Wuerffel wants to avenge No. 4 Florida's humbling defeat to Nebraska in the Fiesta Bowl; Brad Otton could emerge as a star at No. 7 USC and give the Trojans a legitimate shot at a championship; and third-ranked Florida State is always on the verge of winning it all.

Can a healthy Koy Detmer get No. 5 Colorado through a tough schedule that features games against 14th-ranked Michigan, No. 13 Texas A&M, No. 8 Texas and Nebraska?

Is Donovan McNabb the quarterback to lead 10th-ranked Syracuse to the Big East title? Can Northwestern, led by running back Darrell Autry, come close to its dream season of a year ago? And what's up at Notre Dame, where Ron Powilus is still

trying to become the great quarterback everyone predicted he'd be?

Except for a second-half collapse against Florida last season, the Volunteers could have been playing Nebraska for the '95 title. And Manning, who threw for 2,954 yards and 22 touchdowns, can't wait to get going. Florida is at Tennessee on September 21 in one of the season's first big matchups.

"I don't want to leave as the guy who had great numbers but his team never did anything," Manning said. "Our main goal is to be in New Orleans."

The Seminoles, ranked third in the pre-season, have the ingredients to challenge for the Sugar Bowl, this season's top alliance game. Even with Danny Kanell gone, coach Bobby Bowden says Thad Busby, 6-3, 220 pounds, is ready to take over at quarterback.

"The thing Busby hasn't done is he hasn't been under pressure," Bowden said. "He hasn't carried a team on his shoulders. If he handles that OK, I feel like his tools are there."

Warrick Dunn, the first Seminole to rush for at least 1,000 yards in each of two seasons, is back after averaging 7.5 yards per carry in '95. Watch for a Busby-Andre Cooper connection; Cooper averaged over six catches per game and topped the 1,000-yard receiving mark.

At Gainesville, the plan is simple.

"All we've got to do is win every game. There is no room for error." Florida coach Steve Spurrier said. "We've gone 12-1. The next step is to win them all. Of course, that's what a lot of teams try to do, and very few have done it."

There are big changes at South Bend. Powilus is set to run Irish coach Lou Holtz's Blarney offense. The plan is to spread out the running backs, tight ends and receivers and open up the offense. But unless the Irish come up with a standout receiver, the new game plan may not get much use. Led by Autry Denson, who had 695 yards as a freshman last season, the running game should be much improved.

At USC, coach John Robinson says his team is ready to move back into the national spotlight.

Last season, USC went 9-2-1, with losses to the Irish and UCLA. With Otton back as the full-time starter and 1,000-yard rusher Delon Washington returning, Robinson hopes his team starts strong against the Nittany Lions on Sunday.

The new goal at Northwestern? Win the Rose Bowl. "We've been on the bottom looking up. We've been on the top looking down. As long as we stay humble and focused, we'll be OK." Linebacker Pat Fitzgerald said.

Joseph Holtman, Sports Editor

Advertisement for May Tzurim Pure Water. Features a large image of a water cooler and a smaller image of a Mini Super Bar. Text includes: 'Pure Water May Tzurim The only cooler that can steam your drinks to 100°C!', 'Super Bar • Mini Super Bar • Basic Bar and the perfect ultramicro purification system "Tzurim 3" without radiation', 'Tel: 177-022-3828', and 'Exclusive presents for all buyers'. A handwritten note says 'Drink health with May Tzurim!'.

Handwritten text at the bottom of the page: 'كلنا من الاصل' (All of us are original).



# 1996-97 SOCCER SEASON PREVIEW

## MACCABI TEL AVIV

**Coach:** Avraham Grant  
**Home Ground:** National Stadium Ramat Gan, capacity: 45,000  
**Team Colors:** yellow and blue

THE relationship between management and double-winning coach Dror Kasharian was never too easy, hence the return of Avraham Grant, from an unsatisfactory interlude at Hapoel Haifa, to lead the side in its attempts to win a third straight league championship.

There is no denying the aging bones on the bodies of Eli Driks and Nir Klinger who inspired the side's success last year.

This year's fortunes may well depend on how well Grant introduces the bevy of young talent that waits in the wings. Although Itzik Zohar has gone, his absence may make it easier for Avi Nimni to direct midfield. The side features two new foreign imports, Boris Meivejev from Russia, and Poland's Miroslav Czecciak as well summer signing Ofer Mizrahi.

## MACCABI HAIFA

**Manager:** Giora Speigel  
**Home Ground:** Kiryat Eliezer, capacity: 18,000  
**Team Colors:** green and white

THE Green Wave once reigned supreme, but with the departure of Maccabi Tel Aviv twice in consecutive seasons, the club has been reduced to yesterday's men.

After the disappointment of the last season, Speigel decided to rebuild and announced his readiness to sign players like Maccabi Tel Aviv's Alon Mizrahi, Rafi Cohen, and Moshe Glanz. Last season, Speigel's Revivo, has moved to Spain's Celta Vigo, while midfielder Eyal Benayon has headed to sign with Logroñes of the Spanish First Division.

Speigel has signed Ophir Kopel and Herz Shapira from Beitar Jerusalem but the new blood simply doesn't look good enough to turn the club around. The fans are also unhappy, and unless the side starts showing signs of improvement, chairman Ya'acov Shahar might be overthrown.

## BETAR JERUSALEM

**Coach:** Eli Cohen  
**Home Ground:** Teddy Stadium, capacity: 22,000  
**Team Colors:** yellow and black

DESPITE its dire showing in the UEFA Cup, Betar looks to be the team most likely to steal the champions' mantle. The Saloi-Ohana-Harazi trio oozes class in attack, and should provide a tantalizing target for midfielder Itzik Zohar, who could prove to be the "buy of the season" as he operates alongside the tigrish Yossi Abuksis.

If the Betarim can improve in defense then there is every reason to believe that the good times could be back for the Teddy faithful. The club needs to adopt a get-tough policy on its wayward fans. Home ground bans resulting from bad behavior cost the team valuable points last season at a crucial time.

## HAPOEL ZAFRIRIM HOLON

**Coach:** Elisha Levy  
**Home Ground:** Holon Municipal Stadium, capacity: 12,000  
**Team Colors:** red and white

Saddled with massive financial problems, the future of the Holon club is in serious doubt. For the past two seasons, the club has fielded its youth outfit for the opening Toto Cup.

Last minute negotiations have been held to find a solution in time for the team's opening game. If the club's management manages to have its operating budget confirmed, with its playing staff, there has to be a huge question mark over the club's ability to avoid relegation.

## IRONI RISHON LEZION

**Coach:** Viko Hadad  
**Home Ground:** Rishon Municipal Stadium, capacity: 6,000  
**Team Colors:** tangerine and white

Viko Hadad has a tendency to make the most of the men at his disposal. Last season, the side eventually came out of the relegation mire to reach the final of the State Cup, and with it a place in the preliminaries of the European Cup Winners' Cup.

The Rishonites have made no major signings over the summer and consolidation of existing resources seems to be Hadad's goal this campaign.

## BNEI YEHUDA TEL AVIV

**Manager:** Ya'acov Grandman  
**Home Ground:** Hatikva Quarter Stadium, capacity: 8,000  
**Team Colors:** tangerine and black

Most of the summer has been spent in a tactical wrangle over the terms of contract of temperamental striker Alon Mizrahi. On paper, the side might raise the departure of Sahar Mizrahi in return, but has shown strongly in its two pre-season outings in the Toto Cup, netting four goals in each game.

Whether this season should be in store more than the previous campaign, it is hard to forecast, the side becoming a major force this time around.

## HAPOEL TAIBA

**Coach:** Wojtek Lazarek  
**Home Ground:** Netanya Municipal Stadium (first half of season), capacity: 6,000  
**Team Colors:** red

The first Arab side to win promotion into the National League could find life tough, particularly as its home matches are being played in Netanya for the first half of the season. Polish coach Wojtek Lazarek has been drafted to oversee the side which has been strengthened by the arrival of Sahar Mizrahi and Micky Dahan, as well as Polish import Bogdan Jokiak and Romanian Gheorghe Sosila.

As with most newcomers the aim is to avoid the drop straight back to the Second Division. The players will be highly motivated and the support of the country's large Arab community is assured.

## HAPOEL TEL AVIV

**Coach:** Moshe Sinai  
**Home Ground:** Bloomfield Stadium, capacity: 18,000  
**Team Colors:** red and white

IT is going to be a tough season for Hapoel Tel Aviv, the growing shadow of arch-rival Maccabi Tel Aviv, and the prolonged attempt to sign Alon Mizrahi from Beitar Jerusalem. The club does not have the budget to inject the type of players needed to return to its side capable of battling for top honors.

The team of Hapoel Tel Aviv is a welcome addition to a side bolstered by the signing of Sahar Mizrahi.

## HAPOEL JERUSALEM

**Coach:** Yehoshua Givon  
**Home Ground:** Teddy Stadium, capacity: 22,000  
**Team Colors:** red and white

WITH a number of new imports, Hapoel Jerusalem's dire lack of funds required to support a side in the National League, Jerusalem's hopes of making an impact in the domestic cup games is a distinct reality.

Yaroslav Radtsig, former goalkeeper of Dynamo Kyiv, and Yak Assayag, but the side looks to be in a state of flux. The young talents of Itzik Zohar and the experience of veteran Oded Atias, who has been a controversial figure with the club, captain Michel Deyan.

## HAPOEL BEERSHEBA

**Coach:** Eli Guttman  
**Home Ground:** Beersheba Municipal Stadium, capacity: 17,000  
**Team Colors:** red and white

THERE is little to suggest that the Negev side's fortunes will be markedly better than last season.

Beersheba managed to gain a little of its composure on towards the end of the campaign after being shell shocked by Barcelona at the beginning of the season. This season they will rely on newcomers Tsabar Daniel from Maccabi Tel Aviv and Ironi Ashdod and Shai Holtzman from Zafirim Holon. The club's main player in the side is Giovanni Russo who has arrived from Lazio.

## HAPOEL PETAH TIKVA

**Coach:** Eyal Levin  
**Home Ground:** Petah Tikva Municipal Stadium, capacity: 12,000  
**Team Colors:** blue and white

HAPOEL has made its own name as coach at his old club. The club has made its own name as coach at his old club. The club has made its own name as coach at his old club.

## HAPOEL HAIFA

**Coach:** Ivan Katalinic  
**Home Ground:** Kiryat Eliezer, capacity: 18,000  
**Team Colors:** red and white

THE club with one of the most talented squads in local soccer has failed to live up to expectations since Rubie Shapira took over three seasons ago and invested heavily to turn Hapoel Haifa from a weak club into one of the National League's big sides.

New coach Ivan Katalinic is an unknown quantity, but comes with an impressive CV from his native Croatia, having been assistant coach of the national side.

The big name players, Tal Banin, Reuven Amr, Amir Turjeman and Ofer Talker are all still waiting to fulfill their potential as a homogeneous unit and this season they will be helped by national team goalkeeper Rafi Cohen who has arrived from Maccabi Haifa, and Croatian imports, defender Greg Kovacs and midfielder Zhilko Zoplic.

## HAPOEL KFAR SAVA

**Coach:** Avi Cohen  
**Home Ground:** Kiryat Eliezer Municipal Stadium, capacity: 7,000  
**Team Colors:** red and white

KFAR SAVA will be looking to avoid relegation again this season. Avi Cohen has a number of players, particularly as the side has brought in no fewer than 10 new players.

Some of the new signings, such as goalkeeper Eran Sienzinger and midfielder Motti Givon, will be looking to talented Hungarian midfielder Gabor Kocsis, who was the club's outstanding player last season, and to another Hungarian, defender Josef Chabi, who has arrived from Portugal.

## HAPOEL BEIT SHE'AN

**Coach:** Yehoshua Givon  
**Home Ground:** Beit She'an Municipal Stadium, capacity: 6,000  
**Team Colors:** red and white

THE big question mark over the club is asking themselves as this campaign begins is: will it be a success or a failure?

The club manager, Yehoshua Givon, on the last weekend of league action in the past two seasons, the club has managed to go again this time round. The club has no brilliant players, but Massim Agbaria, one of its most dependable strikers, has been a consistent performer.

But more significant than the club's players is the fact that the club has hardly any money to invest in players to compete in the top flight, an ominous signal to the club's devoted fans.

## MACCABI PETAH TIKVA

**Coach:** Avraham Marchinsky  
**Home Ground:** Petah Tikva Municipal Stadium, capacity: 8,500  
**Team Colors:** green and white

MACCABI looks as if it could be one of the teams to trouble the main league contenders. Coach Avraham Marchinsky was recalled by the Lizon brothers and is managed to salvage a side which looked to have lost its way in the National League.

Ofer Talker, who arrived from Maccabi Haifa, and together with a former player in Grayson Marchinsky will hope to see a potent attack opponents' defenses. Midfielder Florian Albert of Hapoel Beersheba also looks to be a promising prospect.

## MACCABI HERZLIYA

**Coach:** Yehoshua Givon  
**Home Ground:** Herzliya Municipal Stadium, capacity: 10,000  
**Team Colors:** blue and white

HAPOEL players at mid-table Maccabi Herzliya will nevertheless not be surprised if the club's fortunes of the club.

Nissim Cohen has left the side and dropped out of the National League at the age of 42. Nine other players have moved into the comfortable municipal ground in Herzliya, most notable among them Meir Melnik from Maccabi Tel Aviv and Roman Filipchuk as strikers.

A good management team led by former Maccabi Tel Aviv boss Rony Klajman will see the club remains on course for yet another season in the National League with the hope of building a strong club in the long term.

## Rich clubs will carry the league through the season

### Also-rans still looking for a return on their investments

"WHEN I met Sir John Hall, he was a billionaire, now, he's only a millionaire."

That is what Kevin Keegan is reported to have said about the owner of Newcastle United FC.

Keegan has received full support from his chairman, and that effectively means an open checkbook.

Just to prove the point, two weeks ago, Sir John signed his name on a check made out for £15 million to buy Alan Shearer, the world's most expensive footballer.

But while soccer has become big business and a major earner for Britain and Europe, the same can hardly be said of our own game.

Newcastle spent about NIS 100m., or more than the budget for the whole National League and the Israel Football Association combined.

Israel's major clubs have tried to break into the big time and earn big bucks. But so far, all we are seeing is money being spent by three or four rich men, with little return for their investment.

At the start of the 1994-95 season, Ya'acov Shabar and Rubie Shapira, the men who built up Maccabi Haifa and Hapoel Haifa respectively, were hailed as the men who would put Israeli soccer on a new plateau.

Through their multi-million shekel investment, Shabar and Shapira had hopes of turning their respective clubs into big money earners. Success on the pitch would attract fans, TV and other sponsorship, merchandising and advertising.

But the field of play in Europe where the big money lies still appears to be a bit too big even for Israel's top clubs. Ever since entering the European arena, not a single club has made it to the significant stages of the Champions' League, the Cup Winners' Cup or the UEFA Cup.

Maccabi Tel Aviv had a golden opportunity to qualify for the Champions' League last year when all they had to do was play out a goalless draw against Grasshopper Zurich in their second-leg home match. That would have earned them an estimated \$5m., but the end result was a loss to the Swiss side and no extra cash to fill

the coffers.

This season, Fenerbahce of Istanbul stood in the Tel Avivians' way, and again there will be no bonus to bolster the side and turn it into a real powerhouse in the local game.

Maccabi Haifa and Beitar Jerusalem have also failed miserably in Europe this season, continuing an infamous pattern which has evolved over the past five years. Hapoel Haifa still has to realize its true potential and Shapira has yet to recoup any of the estimated \$10m he has poured into his club.

At the other end of the spectrum lie the poor clubs of the National League. Hapoel Zafirim Holon is about to fold as the season begins, and a receiver awaits to take over the running of the club. The Holonites had even suggested that Hapoel Beit Yam should take its place in the top division as it saw no future for itself in the National League.

Hapoel Petah Tikva sold all its talented players to generate enough funds so that the club could continue to operate. But an unattractive lineup has made it quite difficult to find an investor who would snap up the once-famed outfit, even for a meager sum.

The same situation applies at other clubs such as Hapoel Beit She'an, whose municipality is too poor to chip in with cash, and Hapoel Jerusalem, whose future in the National League looks precarious even before it has been renewed.

Despite their miserable failures in Europe, the big clubs will hold their own in the domestic competitions. They have proven that they have the purchasing power to attract the most talented local players and a few good foreigners as well.

The big four - Maccabi Tel Aviv, Maccabi Haifa, Hapoel Haifa and Beitar Jerusalem - will continue to challenge for league honors. Hapoel Tel Aviv and Hapoel Beersheba may make a splash here or there, but as for the rest of the league, almost all they will be thinking and dreaming of until May 31 next year is how best to survive in the unforgiving sea of the soccer sharks.

## Previous league champions

1922	British Police	1959	Hapoel Petah Tikva	1979	Maccabi Tel Aviv
1924	Hapoel Tel Aviv	1960	Hapoel Petah Tikva	1980	Maccabi Netanya
1926	Hapoel Tel Aviv	1961	Hapoel Petah Tikva	1981	Hapoel Tel Aviv
1927	Maccabi Tel Aviv	1962	Hapoel Petah Tikva	1982	Hapoel Kfar Sava
1928	Maccabi Tel Aviv	1963	Hapoel Petah Tikva	1983	Maccabi Netanya
1929	Maccabi Tel Aviv	1964	Hapoel Ramat Gan	1984	Maccabi Haifa
1930	Maccabi Tel Aviv	1965	Hapoel Ramat Gan	1985	Maccabi Haifa
1931	Maccabi Tel Aviv	1966	Hapoel Ramat Gan	1986	Maccabi Haifa
1932	Maccabi Tel Aviv	1967	Maccabi Tel Aviv	1987	Beitar Jerusalem
1933	Maccabi Tel Aviv	1968	Maccabi Tel Aviv	1988	Hapoel Tel Aviv
1934	Maccabi Tel Aviv	1969	Maccabi Tel Aviv	1989	Maccabi Haifa
1935	Maccabi Tel Aviv	1970	Maccabi Tel Aviv	1990	Enei Yehuda
1936	Maccabi Tel Aviv	1971	Maccabi Tel Aviv	1991	Maccabi Haifa
1937	Maccabi Tel Aviv	1972	Maccabi Tel Aviv	1992	Maccabi Tel Aviv
1938	Maccabi Tel Aviv	1973	Hapoel Ramat Gan	1993	Maccabi Tel Aviv
1939	Maccabi Tel Aviv	1974	Maccabi Netanya	1994	Beitar Jerusalem
1940	Maccabi Tel Aviv	1975	Hapoel Beersheba	1995	Maccabi Haifa
1941	Maccabi Tel Aviv	1976	Maccabi Tel Aviv	1996	Maccabi Tel Aviv
1942	Maccabi Tel Aviv	1977	Maccabi Tel Aviv		
1943	Maccabi Tel Aviv	1978	Maccabi Netanya		
1944	Maccabi Tel Aviv	1979	Maccabi Netanya		
1945	Maccabi Tel Aviv	1980	Maccabi Netanya		
1946	Maccabi Tel Aviv	1981	Maccabi Netanya		
1947	Maccabi Tel Aviv	1982	Maccabi Netanya		
1948	Maccabi Tel Aviv	1983	Maccabi Netanya		
1949	Maccabi Tel Aviv	1984	Maccabi Netanya		
1950	Maccabi Tel Aviv	1985	Maccabi Netanya		
1951	Maccabi Tel Aviv	1986	Maccabi Netanya		
1952	Maccabi Tel Aviv	1987	Maccabi Netanya		
1953	Maccabi Tel Aviv	1988	Maccabi Netanya		
1954	Maccabi Tel Aviv	1989	Maccabi Netanya		
1955	Maccabi Tel Aviv	1990	Maccabi Netanya		
1956	Maccabi Tel Aviv	1991	Maccabi Netanya		
1957	Maccabi Tel Aviv	1992	Maccabi Netanya		
1958	Maccabi Tel Aviv	1993	Maccabi Netanya		
1959	Maccabi Tel Aviv	1994	Maccabi Netanya		
1960	Maccabi Tel Aviv	1995	Maccabi Netanya		
1961	Maccabi Tel Aviv	1996	Maccabi Netanya		

## Previous State Cup winners

1928	Hapoel Tel Aviv	1952	Macc. Hashmonai	0
1929	Macc. Tel Aviv	1953	Macc. Hashmonai	0
1930	Macc. Tel Aviv	1954	48th regiment	1
1931	Macc. Tel Aviv	1955	Macc. Tel Aviv	0
1932	Macc. Tel Aviv	1956	Hapoel Tel Aviv	0
1933	Macc. Tel Aviv	1957	Hapoel Tel Aviv	0
1934	Macc. Tel Aviv	1958	Hapoel Tel Aviv	0
1935	Macc. Tel Aviv	1959	Hapoel Tel Aviv	0
1936	Macc. Tel Aviv	1960	Hapoel Tel Aviv	0
1937	Macc. Tel Aviv	1961	Hapoel Tel Aviv	0
1938	Macc. Tel Aviv	1962	Hapoel Tel Aviv	0
1939	Macc. Tel Aviv	1963	Hapoel Tel Aviv	0
1940	Macc. Tel Aviv	1964	Hapoel Tel Aviv	0
1941	Macc. Tel Aviv	1965	Hapoel Tel Aviv	0
1942	Macc. Tel Aviv	1966	Hapoel Tel Aviv	0
1943	Macc. Tel Aviv	1967	Hapoel Tel Aviv	0
1944	Macc. Tel Aviv	1968	Hapoel Tel Aviv	0
1945	Macc. Tel Aviv	1969	Hapoel Tel Aviv	0
1946	Macc. Tel Aviv	1970	Hapoel Tel Aviv	0
1947	Macc. Tel Aviv	1971	Hapoel Tel Aviv	0
1948	Macc. Tel Aviv	1972	Hapoel Tel Aviv	0
1949	Macc. Tel Aviv	1973	Hapoel Tel Aviv	0
1950	Macc. Tel Aviv	1974	Hapoel Tel Aviv	0
1951	Macc. Tel Aviv	1975	Hapoel Tel Aviv	0
1952	Macc. Tel Aviv	1976	Hapoel Tel Aviv	0
1953	Macc. Tel Aviv	1977	Hapoel Tel Aviv	0
1954	Macc. Tel Aviv	1978	Hapoel Tel Aviv	0
1955	Macc. Tel Aviv	1979	Hapoel Tel Aviv	0
1956	Macc. Tel Aviv	1980	Hapoel Tel Aviv	0
1957	Macc. Tel Aviv	1981	Hapoel Tel Aviv	0
1958	Macc. Tel Aviv	1982	Hapoel Tel Aviv	0
1959	Macc. Tel Aviv	1983	Hapoel Tel Aviv	0
1960	Macc. Tel Aviv	1984	Hapoel Tel Aviv	0
1961	Macc. Tel Aviv	1985	Hapoel Tel Aviv	0
1962	Macc. Tel Aviv	1986	Hapoel Tel Aviv	0
1963	Macc. Tel Aviv	1987	Hapoel Tel Aviv	0
1964	Macc. Tel Aviv	1988	Hapoel Tel Aviv	0
1965	Macc. Tel Aviv	1989	Hapoel Tel Aviv	0
1966	Macc. Tel Aviv	1990	Hapoel Tel Aviv	0
1967	Macc. Tel Aviv	1991	Hapoel Tel Aviv	0
1968	Macc. Tel Aviv	1992	Hapoel Tel Aviv	0
1969	Macc. Tel Aviv	1993	Hapoel Tel Aviv	0
1970	Macc. Tel Aviv	1994	Hapoel Tel Aviv	0
1971	Macc. Tel Aviv	1995	Hapoel Tel Aviv	0
1972	Macc. Tel Aviv	1996	Hapoel Tel Aviv	0
1973	Macc. Tel Aviv	1997	Hapoel Tel Aviv	0
1974	Macc. Tel Aviv	1998	Hapoel Tel Aviv	0
1975	Macc. Tel Aviv	1999	Hapoel Tel Aviv	0
1976	Macc. Tel Aviv	2000	Hapoel Tel Aviv	0
1977	Macc. Tel Aviv	2001	Hapoel Tel Aviv	0
1978	Macc. Tel Aviv	2002	Hapoel Tel Aviv	0
1979	Macc. Tel Aviv	2003	Hapoel Tel Aviv	0
1980	Macc. Tel Aviv	2004	Hapoel Tel Aviv	0
1981	Macc. Tel Aviv	2005	Hapoel Tel Aviv	0
1982	Macc. Tel Aviv	2006	Hapoel Tel Aviv	0
1983	Macc. Tel Aviv	2007	Hapoel Tel Aviv	0
1984	Macc. Tel Aviv	2008	Hapoel Tel Aviv	0

## 1995-96 season honors

Champions and State Cup winners (European Champions' Cup berth)	Maccabi Tel Aviv
State Cup winners (European Cup berth)	Maccabi Haifa
Third place (UEFA Cup berth)	Beitar Jerusalem
Relegated	Hapoel Haifa, Hapoel Tel Aviv
Second Division champions	Hapoel Taiba
Relegated	Hapoel Kfar Sava, Shimonon Tel Aviv
Promoted from Third Division	Hapoel Ashdod, Maccabi Kfar kana
Toto Cup winners	Hapoel Beersheba (3-0 winners over Hapoel Kfar Sava in final)

## 1996-97 season televised matches

24.8.96	No broadcast	30.11.96	Macc. TA v. Hap. TA	1.3.97	Beit. Jem v. Macc. Tel Aviv
25.8.96	Beit. Jem v. Hap. Haifa	7.12.96	Macc. PT v. Hap. Haifa	8.3.97	Hap. Haifa v. Macc. Petah Tikva
26.8.96	Ironi Rishon v. Macc. Haifa	12.12.96	Beit. Jem v. Hap. Jem	15.3.97	Enei Yehuda v. Beit. Jem
28.8.96	Holon v. Macc. Tel Aviv	20.12.96	Hap. Beit Shean v. Macc. TA	22.3.97	No broadcast
12.10.96	Macc. TA v. Beit. Jem	4.1.97	Macc. Herzliya v. Macc. Haifa	5.4.97	Macc. Haifa v. Macc. Tel Aviv
18.10.96	Macc. Haifa v. Hap. Haifa			12.4.97	Beit. Jem v. Macc. Haifa
25.10.96	Hap. Beersheba v. Macc. Haifa			18.4.97	Hap. TA v. Macc. TA
2.11.96	Hap. Taiba v. Beit. Jem				
18.11.96	Macc. TA v. Macc. Haifa				
23.11.96	Macc. Haifa v. Beit. Jem				

## 1996-97 National League season fixtures

(1) 24.8.96	Hap. Kfar Sava v. Zafirim Holon	(18) 12.9.97	Zafirim Holon v. Macc. Tel Aviv	(25) 12.4.97	Zafirim Holon v. Hap. Taiba
(2) 25.8.96	Hap. Tel Aviv v. Macc. Haifa	(19) 22.9.97	Macc. Haifa v. Hap. Taiba	(26) 15.4.97	Hap. Beersheba v. Hap. Taiba
(3) 26.8.96	Hap. Jerusalem v. Hap. Petah Tikva	(20) 29.9.97	Hap. Taiba v. Macc. Haifa	(27) 22.4.97	Hap. Beersheba v. Hap. Taiba
(4) 28.8.96	Hap. Beit She'an v. Enei Yehuda	(21) 6.10.97	Hap. Beit She'an v. Hap. Kfar Sava	(28) 29.4.97	Hap. Beersheba v. Hap. Taiba
(5) 29.8.96	Hap. Petah Tikva v. Macc. Haifa	(22) 13.10.97	Macc. Tel Aviv v. Hap. Beersheba	(29) 6.5.97	Hap. Beersheba v. Hap. Taiba
(6) 30.8.96	Hap. Beersheba v. Hap. Haifa	(23) 20.10.97	Hap. Beersheba v. Hap. Beersheba	(30) 13.5.97	Hap. Beersheba v. Hap. Taiba
(7) 31.8.96	Hap. Haifa v. Hap. Haifa	(24) 27.10.97	Hap. Beersheba v. Hap. Beersheba	(31) 20.5.97	Hap. Beersheba v. Hap. Taiba
(8) 1.9.96	Hap. Haifa v. Hap. Haifa	(25) 3.11.97	Hap. Beersheba v. Hap. Beersheba	(32) 27.5.97	Hap. Beersheba



# Commander in friendly fire mishap suspended

OC Northern Command Maj.-Gen. Amiram Levine suspended the commander of the force which opened fire on its own men, killing St.-Sgt. Valery Ganzman and wounding Avishai Shafir on Tuesday. Ganzman, who immigrated from Belarus five years ago and had just one week left to serve when he was killed, was buried yesterday in Upper Nazareth.

Levine said that until the tragic incident the commander of the Givati Brigade's anti-tank platoon had been level-headed and experienced. The commander, a second lieutenant, will remain suspended until a special investigative committee completes its inquiry.

In an initial inquiry held yesterday, Chief of General Staff Lt.-Gen. Amnon Lipkin-Shahak reviewed the incident with

ARIEH O'SULLIVAN

the commander of the platoon and soldiers who were involved. Also attending the inquiry were Levine, OC Ground Corps Command Maj.-Gen. Amos Malka, the Galilee Division commander Brig.-Gen. Yom-Tov Samia, OC Southern Command Maj.-Gen. Shlomo Yanal, who is responsible for the Givati Brigade, and

the Givati Brigade commander.

The army said Shabak and Levine accepted the presentation made by the Galilee Division. That presentation reportedly blamed the platoon commander for not having full control over his troops.

The force had been returning from an all-night exercise when the commander suspected noises behind him were terrorists moving in on his squad. His soldiers

opened fire on the group of soldiers making up the rear section, which was led by Ganzman.

Ganzman was killed outright and Shafir suffered serious chest wounds. Shabak ordered the special investigation be set up to put together a detailed sequence of events that led to the mishap and the lessons to be derived from the mistakes, the army said.

### WEATHER

Forecast: Partly cloudy to clear.  
Shabbat: No change.

### AROUND THE WORLD

	LOW	HIGH			
	C	F	C		
Amsterdam	14	57	24	76	clear
Berlin	16	61	24	76	clear
Buenos Aires	16	61	24	76	clear
Caracas	22	72	28	82	clear
Chicago	17	63	27	81	clear
Frankfurt	16	61	24	76	clear
Geneva	17	63	27	81	clear
Helsinki	11	52	20	70	clear
Hong Kong	27	81	31	88	clear
London	14	57	23	73	clear
Los Angeles	19	66	26	79	clear
Madrid	17	63	27	81	clear
Moscow	12	54	20	70	clear
Mumbai	22	72	28	82	clear
New York	14	57	23	73	clear
Paris	14	57	23	73	clear
Rome	15	59	25	77	clear
Sydney	15	59	25	77	clear

## Eitan blasts Yarmuk dam proposal

DAVID RUDGE

Minister Rafael Eitan yesterday sharply criticized a reported proposal by Jordan and Syria to jointly construct a dam on the upper reaches of the Yarmuk River.

Eitan said that if the report was correct and the plan went ahead, it would constitute a breach of regional water agreements, including those contained in the peace treaty between Israel and Jordan. Under the accord, Israel is supposed to give Jordan 30 million cubic meters of water a year from Lake Kinneret.

He warned that if only Syria and Jordan would benefit from the reported dam project, the government would have to reconsider water agreements with Jordan.

He said that if Israel were to get its share of the water from the dam project, he would have no objections to the plan. But he maintained that it is highly unlikely that Syria would agree

to share any of the water with Israel.

Eitan stressed, however, that it is not clear if the reports are correct and, if so, what had prompted Jordan and Syria to raise the dam proposal.

"I don't know if there is anything in what has been reported and published, and I don't know if they are going to actually carry out the work on this joint dam," Eitan told Israel Radio. "If it does go ahead, however, or this trend does appear to be correct, it would be contrary to all the water agreements since the Johnston Accord in the early 1950s."

Eitan noted that the water issue will be one of the key issues in peace talks with Syria, if or when they resume.

National Infrastructure Minister Ariel Sharon issued a

statement saying that he "isn't familiar with the agreement between Syria and Jordan and wouldn't relate to the facts and numbers published in the media."

He added: "I want to think that the Jordanians, like us, honor agreements and that they intend, as we do, to fulfill their water agreements with Israel."

The original report of the Yarmuk dam project was carried in a recent edition of a London-based Arabic newspaper. The paper quoted Jordanian sources as saying that Jordan had forwarded the proposal to Syria because of its disappointment with the implementation of the water agreements with Israel.

The report noted that Jordan and Syria had signed an accord a decade ago to jointly construct a dam and reservoir along the upper reaches of the Yarmuk, but it was never implemented due to lack of funds.



Fans reach out to take T-shirts from George Cluney (left) star of the American TV series 'ER' in Tel Aviv yesterday. Cluney was on a six-hour visit to Israel, taking a break from filming a movie in Spain and presented a gown and stethoscope to the Tel Aviv branch of the Planet Hollywood restaurant chain. (Reuters)

## Yarmuk dam would severely reduce flow into the Jordan

BACKGROUND  
DAVID RUDGE

THE construction of a dam on the upper reaches of the Yarmuk River on the Jordan-Syria border would reduce the flow in the lower section to a bare trickle, according to Technion Prof. Dan Zaslavsky, a former water commissioner.

He noted that under the Johnston Accord of the early 1950s, which was accepted and upheld by Jordan and Israel even though they never signed it, the Yarmuk waters flow directly into the Jordan River, south of the Kinneret, and are shared by Jordan and Israel.

Some of the water is diverted from the lower reaches of the Yarmuk to help irrigate fields in Jordan and Israel. Some of the water is also pumped into the

flow into the Yarmuk," said Zaslavsky.

"If another dam were to be constructed on the upper reaches of the Yarmuk, there would be virtually nothing flowing down into the Jordan in the summer and only in rare cases of floods in the winter.

"This would deprive farmers on both sides of this water source, and whatever might be left over would be highly saline.

"This would also have an adverse effect on the landscape and nature in the area. Therefore, I sincerely hope these reports are incorrect, or that Jordan will not go-ahead with such a joint project, especially with such an untrustworthy partner as Syria," Zaslavsky added.

### Japanese FM expected next week

Foreign Minister Yukihiko Ikeda is expected to arrive here Sunday, as part of his visit to the region, during which he will also visit the Palestinian autonomous areas, Jordan, Egypt, and Syria.

The improvement in bilateral relations following progress in the peace process is evidenced by Japanese plans to open a trade office here next year and by Japanese investment, including the funding of joint projects, the Foreign Ministry said yesterday. (Jerusalem Post Staff)

## National Fraud Squad to question Zucker about Camera Obscura

BILL HUTMAN

MK Dedi Zucker (Meretz) is to be summoned soon by the National Fraud Squad for questioning. He is suspected of financial wrongdoing in connection with his work for the Camera Obscura photography company and school, senior police sources said yesterday.

The National Fraud Squad recently looked into the allegations and found reasonable cause for opening a formal investigation, according to the sources. Attorney General Michael Ben-Yair also gave his approval for an investigation.

Zucker is suspected of violating the Knesset Members Immunity Law by representing the Tel Aviv-based company in its dealings with the Education Ministry. The ministry, with Zucker's help, allocated the school some NIS 600,000 for the 1995-1996 school year.

Zucker, who denies any wrongdoing, also allegedly received a salary of NIS 78,000 in 1995 from Camera Obscura, but declared less than half that amount to the Knesset chairman.

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